

Teachers in conference protest

Silent fury greets reprimand by Joseph

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, angered the teaching profession again yesterday when he said he was appalled by the damage to the education of children deliberately inflicted by some teachers during the recent long pay dispute.

Their anger was conveyed pointedly when he was received in total silence by the 1,200 delegates of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest teachers' union, whom Sir Keith was addressing for the first time at their conference in Scarborough.

In what was clearly an organized display of repressed hostility, not one delegate applauded when Sir Keith finished his speech.

At the Cardiff conference of the third biggest teaching union, a motion of no confidence in Sir Keith was passed. Delegates representing the 110,000 members of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association passed the resolution overwhelmingly.

At Scarborough, Sir Keith said that schoolchildren were not achieving high enough standards, schools were badly managed, and the education service would get no more money until it could show it was spending its budget effectively.

Sir Keith referred to the union's decision this week to continue its boycott of preparations for the new GCSE examination. He said the exam would go ahead in September despite the union's desire to see it postponed. The bulk of syllabuses would be in schools in May, he said, and the training programme was in place.

Vote to wreck exam system

By Our Education Correspondent

The second biggest teaching union voted yesterday in Scarborough to look for the best ways of disrupting public examinations as part of industrial action for more pay.

The decision, which took the leadership of the National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers by surprise at the annual conference, reverses previous policy that public examinations should be exempt from industrial action. It means that the executive of the union will have to look at ways of wrecking the examination system and report back to members as a matter of urgency. That could be at a special conference or at next year's annual conference.

It would be almost impossible for the union of 117,000 members to decide to disrupt the June examinations because they are only three months off. But yesterday's decision could lead to December resits or next year's examinations being disrupted.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UWT, said he did not regard the vote as a "significant" policy change. Delegates were "having their cake and eating it", he said. He believed the issue would have to be put again to a conference of members.

"My members feel a bit frustrated so they want everyone to understand what a fearful fighting force they are", he said. "I understand that." The motion on examinations was passed heavily, and to loud applause, after it had been amended. The amendment removed an immediate commitment to use examinations as an industrial weapon and substituted a clause about the executive reporting back on the best ways of disruption.

At last year's conference a motion to disrupt examinations was defeated by a majority of 200 votes and there was also a majority against at the NAS/UWT's special salaries conference in January.

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Dr Kurt Waldheim addressing voters yesterday in Krems, lower Austria, in his campaign to become Austria's president.

Medical team late to jet disaster

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

The emergency medical team took over an hour to get to last year's Manchester air disaster because the airport control tower failed to give it sufficient priority in reporting the accident, the North West Regional Health Authority disclosed yesterday.

In a second error, an airline bus took 36 injured passengers to the wrong hospital, the authority said.

The head of the emergency team, Dr Ray Lawton, emphasized that the mistakes made no difference to the number of deaths, or to eventual treatment of casualties.

But he said: "It requires only a little imagination to visualize what could happen if mistakes of this kind were made again."

The authority announced that it is now carrying out a review of air accident procedures.

Manchester Airport declined to comment before the inquest and inquiry reports into the crash in which 55 people in a British Airways jet were killed.

According to the authority, the airport's initial mistake was to report the crash to the medical emergency team as an accident rather than as a full-scale emergency.

When an ambulance eventually reached the scene, the full scale of the disaster was realised and help was summoned, arriving 79 minutes after the crash.

By the time the medical team reached the scene, all the injured survivors had already been taken to hospital.

The second error was when an airline bus driver took 36 casualties to Winton Hospital instead of Wythenshaw Hospital, thus missing the medical team.

The inquest is expected later this year.

Woolworth faces £1.8bn bid battle

By Alison Eadie

The biggest-ever high street takeover battle broke out yesterday when Dixons' £1.5 billion bid for Woolworth Holdings was launched.

Woolworth, which was bought by its present owners for only £310 million three and a half years ago, rejected the bid as derisory and without commercial logic.

Woolworth shares soared 257p on the stock market to a closing price of 890p as the City speculated that other bids might follow.

Takeover rumours have been swirling round Woolworth for weeks. Dixons was thought to be the most likely bidder, but the company denied any intention of bidding.

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman and chief executive of Dixons, explained yesterday: "We had done our homework on Woolworth, but were not in bid mode until after we saw the 1985-6 figures, which came out last week."

He described the figures - showing a 43 per cent rise in pretax profits to £81.3 million in the year to February 1 - as very poor and said Woolworth still lacked a coherent retailing strategy. He called the goods it sells a mish-mash of inferior quality.

Mr Kalms added that Dixons would be able to develop a total formula for Woolworth based on the core product areas of leisure, home and entertainment.

Woolworth has 850 shops under the FW Woolworth name plus 176 B&Q do-it-yourself stores and 179 Comet electrical stores.

Woolworth has a total selling area of 14.4 million square feet compared with Dixons' 1.5 million. But Dixons is valued by the stock market at £1.6 billion compared with Woolworth's valuation of just under £2 billion yesterday.

The key to acquiring Woolworth is with six financial institutions, which hold 41 per cent of the equity.

They backed the takeover of Woolworth in November 1982 by a management team led by Mr John Beckett, who has just retired as chairman.

The six are Warburg Investment Management, Robert Fleming, the Prudential, Legal & General, Merchant Navy Pension Fund and Commercial Union.

Woolworth's share price at 85p above Dixons' bid price indicated the stock market's belief that the bid would have to be raised to succeed. Stockbrokers spoke of £10 a share being a fair price.

Dixons share price also shot up yesterday, unusually for the bidding company, to close 60p higher at 430p. The company's heady growth record, and its successful integration of Currys in 16 months ago, have given it a strong following in the City.

Its interim profits showed a rise of 140 per cent and full-year profit to April 9 1986 are expected to reach £73 million from £39.6 million the year before.

The bid by Dixons caused temporary confusion for Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank which advises Woolworth, but also acted for Dixons when it took over Currys.

After a hurried meeting, the bank withdrew because of the conflict of interest. Woolworth will be defended by N M Rothschild merchant bank.

S G Warburg, which defended Currys against Dixons in an acrimonious battle, will act for Dixons.

Arab is sought in TWA bombing

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greek security police and American agents despatched to Athens by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are looking for an Arab who may have placed the bomb that crippled a TWA airliner, killing four of its passengers, over Greece on Wednesday.

The agents are acting on a tip-off from Italian authorities that a passenger, who travelled from Cairo to Athens on the plane's outward journey in seat number 10F, under which the explosion later occurred, may have planted a time-bomb there.

The man left the plane in Athens. Italian officials told the investigators that the passenger, listed as Mansur, is a suspected terrorist and was involved in a 1983 attempt to plant a bomb on an Alitalia plane and is wanted for an attack on the Rome synagogue.

Cairo reports, however, indicated the passenger Mansur was a Lebanese woman.

The Athens investigation is relying on several metal particles, collected in a ravine near the town of Argos in south Greece where the bodies of the four victims were flung out by the blast, to establish the nature of the explosive.

The metal was being examined by Greek ordnance experts as well as FBI agents.

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who debriefed the plane's crew after ordering TWA to call off a scheduled news conference with its pilot.

Before being spirited away, however, Captain Richard Peterson told reporters he hoped the debris found near Argos would reveal where the bomb had been hidden.

The hero of the day, who landed the plane with 118 on board at Athens Airport 13 minutes after the explosion which tore a gaping hole in the fuselage, said it looked as if the bomb "was in a suitcase beneath seat number 10F".

"We do not know if it was a plastic explosive or dynamite. It could have been either."

The pilot said it was not impossible that the bomb was tucked into a life-vest despite the very strict security checks in Cairo, Athens and Rome, both by local police and the company's own security men.

The pilot, a Korean war veteran aged 54, said only an explosion above the cabin floor could explain the lower leg injuries to passengers. One possibility would have been that the explosive was put in the wall of the plane.

Eight FBI agents and eight officials of the US Federal Aviation Administration are

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Tomorrow The big race



How does it feel to win the Grand National on a rank outsider? As the runners line up for Aintree's great day, Hywel Davies, who rode last year's winner Last Suspect, describes fence-by-fence the extraordinary thrill of a race without spills, from the sweat and tension of the starting gate to the triumph of the winning post. And on the sports pages, a full A to Z guide to the field accompanies Michael Phillips's preview plus, of course, the full race card with the form

Yard cuts number of armed officers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is to reduce by about 750 its pool of officers authorized to use firearms so that only 11 per cent of the 27,000-strong force will be allowed to use arms compared with a current figure of 14 per cent.

Police use of guns both in London and the provinces has come under considerable criticism in recent years with incidents such as the shooting of Stephen Waldorf in 1983. A London inspector awaits trial for the wounding of Mrs Cherry Groce in Brixton last year.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that about 2,970 officers, including officers on protection duties, would be authorized to use guns out of a total strength of 27,000, instead of the current figure of about 3,780.

In the last published report for the Metropolitan Police, for 1984, there were 4,631 officers authorized, representing 17 per cent of a strength of 26,944.

Yesterday a Scotland Yard spokesman said the figures showed the desire to reduce the number of officers using weapons. After the shooting of Mr Waldorf, the Home Office and Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, agreed the level of authorized police marks-men should be reduced to about 12 per cent.

The Yard, according to the statement, is planning to create eight tactical firearms units from its D11 firearms branch later this year to serve each of London's eight police areas.

Mr Newman, who is expected to be replaced by Sir Kenneth Newman, agreed to reduction

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Pretoria denies lifting ban on Mrs Mandela

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

As hundreds of well-wishers called on Mrs Winnie Mandela at her home in Soweto yesterday, there was confusion over whether her banning order has been lifted.

Colonel Leon Mellett, spokesman for Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, said: "The banning order has not been lifted. It is only under review."

Later Colonel Mellett said Mr Le Grange was discussing the whole issue of banning with government legal advisers.

In Cape Town, Mr P. Kleynhans, the state attorney on Mrs Mandela's case, denied telling her lawyer, Mr Ismael Ayob, that the state would not oppose her appeal against a ban on her returning to Soweto. "To the best of my knowledge the order remains in force," he said.

Mr Ayob said on Wednesday he understood that only the ban defining Mrs Mandela as a "hated person" still stood.

Mrs Mandela said: "I'm going back home. They're welcome to arrest me there."

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Sir Peter Pears dies at 75

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Sir Peter Pears, Britain's most famous postwar tenor, died yesterday aged 75, only 10 weeks before the start of the Aldeburgh festival which he founded with his friend and companion, the late Benjamin Britten.

The singer's death came as a shock to the East Anglian festival where he had been taking an active role in organizing the programme. But the event will go ahead as planned, although it may be muted because of Sir Peter's death, a spokesman said.

A graduate of Oxford University and the Royal College of Music, Sir Peter began his association with Benjamin Britten in 1939 and performed the lead roles in some of the composer's most important postwar operas, including *Billy Budd* and *Peter Grimes*.

Both took up residence in East Anglia where they founded the Britten-Pears School of Advanced Musical Studies and built up the Snape Maltings as a new musical venue.

Sir Peter gave up singing a decade ago but in recent years had appeared as a reader at occasional events at Aldeburgh.

He will be buried at Aldeburgh Parish Church next week next to Benjamin Britten's grave.

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Portfolio

Yesterday's £2,000 daily prize in The Times Portfolio competition was won by the Rev F E Chad of Downham, Clitheroe, Lancashire. Portfolio list page 24, how to play, information service, page 16.

Kidnap Bill

A Bill to tackle "tug of love" child kidnappings has been introduced to control the unlawful snatching of children by estranged parents. Page 3

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page numbers and some illegible characters.

Airport security on alert since US Navy clash with Libyans

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Police and airline security officials in Britain have been on alert for possible terrorist attacks such as the TWA blast over Greece since the first hint last week of fresh trouble in the Mediterranean, a senior police commander said yesterday.

Commander Pat Carson, head of the Scotland Yard security operation at Heathrow airport, said security alerts primed by a special police intelligence unit at the airport were designed to react swiftly to the development of events abroad.

News of the US Navy action in the Gulf of Sirte immediately prompted new security round potential targets in London, such as American flights.

Yesterday senior officers at the airport considered the bombing in one of their regular meetings on security problems and today the TWA incident is likely to be high on the agenda of a meeting of airline and airport security managers at Heathrow.

The heightening of security, especially concerning potential targets such as American flights, is the latest exercise in a British airport security organization which is said to be highly valued internationally.

In the past decade, the only big incident involved a bomb in a suitcase two years ago, which is attributed to a failed attempt to destroy a flight

from Athens to London. But an international conference of air and sea port police officers in California last month was told that terrorist attacks could double by the 1990s, and the emphasis will move from aircraft to airports.

Protection of British airports and passengers operates at three levels. The International Civil Aviation Organization provides generally accepted security measures which will stop the transit of terrorists and weapons between countries.

The Department of Transport is instrumental in this area and also oversees the second level of security provided by airport authorities: aircraft passing through this country and screening the people who board or leave them.

A national committee of airline, airport and police officials pulls together policy. Police, sometimes armed, provide the third level of overt security, and collate intelligence for airlines and airports.

At the international level the Department of Transport believes there has been considerable progress in the past year, especially since the hijacking of the TWA flight to Beirut in the summer. Last December the ICAO, with 150 members, agreed new safety standards which include better measures for checking passengers in transit.

Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Aviation, said yesterday that "good progress" was being made after work by a committee including Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World at One* programme, he also pointed to work being done in domestic security. Heathrow's new Terminal Four includes additional security measures. For example, passengers coming off a flight cannot mix with those boarding an aircraft.

Since last summer no passenger boarding a flight at a British airport can check in his baggage and then fail to take his flight, leaving the baggage to go without him.

Restrictions have been placed on baggage being checked in by a tour operator or another airline. Passengers and their hand luggage are checked using X-ray equipment now installed at airports. But baggage in the hold is not checked as the Department of Transport says it would be too expensive and difficult to organize.

However, baggage is checked on El Al and Irish flights. Mr Carson said his staff included an intelligence unit which constantly monitors events abroad and keeps a calendar of significant and dangerous dates in the calendars of countries and their airlines.

Mr Spicer said the council until midnight on Wednesday, also helped to devise the complex framework which is meant to foil Conservative hopes of taking control in his absence.

The main aim is to stop the Conservatives taking power although they now have a majority and to do nothing that could jeopardize a Labour election victory.

That was arranged before Labour lost its majority on Wednesday by switching the power to call meetings from the leader of the council to a new committee led by the mayor. A new mayor was then chosen to replace the one about to be banned.

Mr Kingsley Smith, the new mayor, can take up to three weeks to respond to a Conservative demand for a council meeting at which the policies of the old Labour majority could be overturned.

The Conservatives were worried that careful use of the rules by the three remaining Labour members could keep the new Conservative majority out of effective control until election day on May 8.

Council unions fear that Conservatives would cut the workforce if they took power. Most council workers in Lambeth went on strike for the day and were quickly supported by a 24-hour strike in Labour-controlled Hackney council.

Mr Knight, who was leader of the council until midnight on Wednesday, also helped to devise the complex framework which is meant to foil Conservative hopes of taking control in his absence.

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Mr Baker on the road in Oxford yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Baker halts Oxford sprawl

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday blocked further suburban sprawl in Oxford, but said housing and industrial space was needed in several towns near by.

"Oxford is part of our history and we must make sure that it is part of our future," Mr Baker, an undergraduate at Magdalen more than 30 years ago, said in the city yesterday.

His announcement was welcomed by the Oxford Preservation Trust, which asked him last year to curb development by the Labour-led city council.

Mr Baker said it was time to draw the inner boundary of the Oxford Green Belt, which the trust said was needed to stop the built-up area from creeping outwards.

Mr Baker was with Mr John Patten, a minister of state in his department and MP for Oxford West and Abingdon. The ministers made clear that there would be to be growth in Oxfordshire, but they wanted it to be confined to towns and not to be allowed to spread into unpopulated countryside and villages.

They wanted county planners to make room for 10 per cent more houses than originally planned. They also wanted sites made available in the centre of the county for "high-tech" companies that needed to be near university research facilities.

"Many of the towns and villages in the rural areas are of the highest value in heritage terms," Mr Baker said. The main housing growth will be in Banbury, Bicester, Didcot and Witney. Growth is to be curbed heavily in the historic riverside towns of Henley and Wallingford and in the Cotswolds at Burford.



Oxfordshire growth areas

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Medicine absorbed by skin

Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A novel way of absorbing drugs through the skin has been developed to reduce the side-effects of medicines.

The device, approved by the Committee on Safety of Medicines, is a small patch stuck on the skin. It is replaced daily for continuous treatment, and introduces the drug more closely to the area where it is needed, and in lower doses spread, more evenly over 24 hours.

The preparation contained in the device demonstrated yesterday in London by a research group of Schwarz Pharmaceuticals, at Chesham, Buckinghamshire, was the most frequently used agent for treating angina: glyceryl trinitrate.

It allows an increase of blood flow to the heart muscle by dilating the coronary vessels and others supplying different tissues. The method of absorbing the substance through the skin is referred to as transdermal delivery, and the proprietary name for the device, which contains the medicine, is DepoNit. It is not the first transdermal system, which was a patch to stick behind the ear to control seasickness. That ingredient was scopolamine.

The drug is virtually sucked out of the patch.

Lambeth workers hold town hall

By Hugh Clayton

Council workers in Lambeth, south London, occupied the town hall yesterday to prevent Conservatives from taking control after the banning of Labour councillors.

The move was planned last year as a response to the possible banning of councillors who took part in the abortive rates rebellion that began with 20 Labour councillors.

Mr Jim O'Brien, chairman of the joint committee drawn from all unions in the council workforce, said that the workforce intended to keep Labour in power until all seats came up for election on May 8. "It is the local people can decide for themselves."

The noisy departure of 30 Labour councillors on Wednesday night marked the first mass banings from council office since the Clay Cross dispute more than 10 years ago.

The 30 had to go after the High Court rejected their appeals against the verdicts of a local auditor that they had lost ratepayers' money through "wilful misconduct".

Yesterday was the first day out of office for many years for Mr Ted Knight, one of the architects of last year's rebellion, who described himself as a full-time councillor.

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RUC chief acts to allay fears

By Richard Ford

Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, yesterday sought to allay the fears of his force and their families after a third night of violent attacks on their homes by "loyalists".

In the wake of four more intimidatory incidents involving petrol bombs, bricks and stones, Sir John set up a committee to consider the welfare of officers and their families who have been attacked.

He is also to improve communication between himself and the rank and file in an effort to keep them better informed and counter lies and innuendo being circulated in public.

Sir John had a further meeting with the Police Federation and the Government promised to do everything possible to provide additional protection to officers and their homes, most of which are located in loyalist areas.

The chief constable and his senior officers are seriously concerned at attempts being made to break the RUC by people described as "thugs and hoodlums" who intimidate officers at their most vulnerable point by attacking their homes and families.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said only a tiny minority of hoodlums were involved and urged the community to support the RUC and tell them of anyone suspected of carrying out attacks.

Early yesterday loyalists petrol-bombed the home of a policeman in east Belfast as he, his wife and two children were asleep but the family escaped unhurt.

In Lurgan a loyalist mob gathered outside the home of an intimidated police officer as Lady Hermon, wife of the chief constable, was visiting them. The police had to cordon off the area and escort Lady Hermon to her car as the mob threw a number of eggs at the police but she was unharmed.

An IRA hunkler has been ordered to carry out no further "operations" without clearance from the top.

The order was handed down after Britain's most wanted woman, Evelyn Glenholmes, failed to give Irish police the slip when a court ordered her release two weeks ago.

Tories' picket on church meeting

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Conservative candidate in the Fulham by-election yesterday organized a picket of a public meeting traditionally organized by church leaders to dissuade voters from attending.

Mr Matthew Carrington, dubbed the "invisible man" by his opponents because of his repeated refusal to share a public platform, accused the Fulham Council of Churches of being "politically motivated" and said it had deliberately attempted to exclude him from last night's meeting.

It was disclosed that Mr Carrington's agent had warned church leaders the meeting could be illegal and the Conservative Party would take legal advice over it going ahead.

The Fulham Council of Churches usually arranges a public meeting during parliamentary elections with the main candidates attending.

But last night's event, to which the Labour and Alliance candidates agreed to attend, clashed with a meeting arranged a few days earlier by the Conservatives where Mr Norman Tebbit, party chairman, was due to speak.

Mr Carrington said yesterday that the council of churches had been unwilling to discuss changing dates. "Consequently we are going to be picketing the meeting this evening. We are going to have a leaflet there which will give to everybody who attends that meeting asking them not to attend."

He was very reluctant to think the churches were politically motivated "but it is very difficult to escape that conclusion".

He accused the church leaders of trying to organize their meeting so it deliberately clashed with the Tebbit event, making it difficult for him to attend. He dismissed suggestions that the Tebbit meeting could have been rearranged, because the party chairman was so busy.

The Rev Timothy Poh, chairman of the council of churches, reacted angrily to Mr Carrington's accusations saying he had done everything possible to try to accommodate the Conservatives. He had brought the time of the churches' meeting forward by one hour to enable Mr Carrington to attend and then go on to the Tebbit event. The Conservatives had shown "very great reluctance" to attend the meeting since they were originally invited. Mr Ian Sanderson, the Conservative agent, had used "strong words".

"I am very upset about what has happened and just cannot understand why the Conservatives have appeared not to wish to attend."

Upstart in pursuit of good old Woolies

By Alan Hamilton

A form of one-sided marriage was proposed yesterday between Woolies, the dear old lady of the high street who has seen better days, and Dixons, the brash upstart all hung about with cameras and home computers. The takeover bid is on for one of the most familiar names in British retailing that started life ahead of the times, but has found it ever harder to keep up.

Frank Winfield Woolworth was an American retail store clerk who had the bright idea that sales might be improved if all the merchandise were laid out on a table for the customers to see.

He opened his first shop in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1888, pioneering the idea of the walkaround open display store that had its entire stock displayed on the counter.

Woolworth had built up a thriving chain across the United States by the time he shipped his idea to Britain and opened his first European store in Church Street, Liverpool, on November 5, 1909, in the heart of a working-class metropolis instantly receptive to his trading policy that nothing in the shop would cost more than sixpence.

He sold broken biscuits, sweets, housewares and other prosaic necessities of back-to-back industrial life.

His Liverpool store quickly spawned another in the same city, and soon a chain across Britain. He enjoyed the flattery of imitation, some of it blatant, including a group of stores in Northern Ireland using the same red and gold shopfronts and calling itself F.A. Wellworth and Co.

By 1950 Woolworth had 72 stores in Britain and by 1958 the chain had reached a peak of 1,000 stores.

But affluence gradually overtook the Woolworth philosophy and profits began to slide. The company was sold in 1982 to the Paternoster consortium, ending all vestige of connection with the original American parent and leading to a slimming exercise which has now reduced the number of stores to 850.

Last year Woolies made a further concerted effort to shake off the residue of their sixpenny image, revamping their store at Hitchin, Hertfordshire, quickly followed by 11 others across the country, in pastel colours and reducing their multiplicity of lines to six basic areas: children's toys and clothes, records and tapes, stationery and confectionery, do-it-yourself and gardening, table and kitchenware, and cosmetics.

Two hundred stores are to be biased towards leisure, the remainder to rely more heavily on Woolworth's traditional lines.

Nissan in quotas dispute with rivals

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Moves by Nissan UK to double sales in Britain in the next two years in apparent breach of the 11 per cent "ceiling" on Japanese car imports, has brought the privately-owned company into conflict with many of its own dealers.

The Motor Agents Association (MAA) and rival Japanese importers. The latter have protested to their Tokyo headquarters demanding action by the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) which "polices" the quota system setting individual manufacturers' shares based on controlled annual shipments.

The dispute will be on the agenda at next month's half-yearly meeting between the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) representing British interests and JAMA, although it will not be raised by the British.

The MAA said last night that writs had been issued by Nissan UK against the association, its director-general, Mr David Gent, and Mr Martin Derrick, editor of the association's monthly magazine, *Motor Trade Executive*, alleging that an article in the latest issue dealing with Nissan moves to reorganize its dealer network contained "lies, distortion and half truths".

The agreement with the British Government stipulates that initial assembly of 24,000 cars a year due to commence at Washington, Tyne and Wear, in July will be subtracted from Nissan's existing import quota. Even if phase 2 is achieved only by breaching the 11 per cent restriction or at the expense of Japanese rivals.

Banking union rejects merger

The 157,000-strong Banking, Insurance and Finance Union has rejected merger overtures from ASTMS, the scientific and technical staff union.

But talks between ASTMS and the manufacturing staff union, Tass, are proceeding, which could create a grouping of more than 600,000 white-collar workers.

Prior on list

Mr David Prior, aged 30, a British Steel sales director, has been shortlisted to succeed his father, Mr James Prior, as MP for the Suffolk constituency of Waveney. Mr Prior has represented Lowestoft for more than 25 years but plans to leave politics at the next general election.

NGA leader denies demo obstruction

Mr Tony Dubbins, the general secretary of the National Graphical Association who was arrested outside the Wapping plant two weeks ago, appeared before Thames magistrates yesterday charged with obstructing the highway. He was released on unconditional bail after pleading "not guilty". The hearing was adjourned until May 21.

Mr William Shiel, aged 31, a bricklayer, of Tiller Road, Poplar, east London, accused of demanding £50,000 with menaces from News International was committed yesterday by Thames magistrates to the Central Criminal Court for trial. He was released on bail of £5,000.

Mr David Hart, a political commentator, told the conference of Conservative Students meeting in Scarborough that if print union leaders wanted an end to picket-line violence, they should stop the picketing.

Referring to the dispute outside News International's new technology plant at Wapping, east London, he said: "It's no good the attractive Miss Brenda Dean saying in her most boneytoned tones that she doesn't like the violence. If she called off her pickets the men of violence wouldn't have a rallying point."

Report: The Times overseas
Africa: The Times overseas
Canada: \$2.75; Caribbean: £2.00;
Ceylon: £2.00; Central Am: \$2.00;
Finland: \$2.00; France: £2.00;
Germany: £2.00; Greece: £2.00;
India: £2.00; Ireland: £2.00;
Italy: £2.00; Japan: £2.00;
Korea: £2.00; Latin Am: £2.00;
Malaysia: £2.00; Mexico: £2.00;
New Zealand: £2.00; Norway: £2.00;
Pakistan: £2.00; Portugal: £2.00;
Singapore: £2.00; South Africa: £2.00;
Spain: £2.00; Sweden: £2.00;
Switzerland: £2.00;
Taiwan: £2.00; Thailand: £2.00;
USA: \$1.75; Yugoslavia: £2.00.

Exams cause confusion

By Patricia Clough

One education authority threatened yesterday to close down schools where teachers disrupted the new GCSE examination courses as confusion reigned over the future of Britain's 500,000 13-year-olds.

All over the country head teachers and parents braced themselves for a new term of disputes and uncertainty as teachers' unions remained intransigent over the two-year GCSE course which the current third-formers are supposed to take instead of O levels.

The Conservative-ruled Hereford and Worcester County Council pointed out that it is preparing plans to shed hundreds of school places in the 1990s because of falling rolls and warned that the amount of disruption caused to an individual school during the next few months would be an important factor in deciding whether it should remain open.

"We will not tolerate any question of interfering with the GCSE," Dr David Muffett, chairman of the education committee, said. A county National Union of Teachers representative described the warning as blackmail.

One of the 5,000 or so head teachers facing the new turmoil is Mr Michael Pipes, headmaster of the City of Portsmouth School for Boys and chairman of the National Association of Head Teachers education committee.

He has 311 third formers who have to decide this term what subjects they will sit in two years time. Mr Pipes has also to contend with 34 teachers in the National Association of SchoolMasters Union of Women Teachers who are demanding a fee per pupil for the internal assessments marking and 24 NUT members who he expects to insist on teaching the old O level and CSE courses.

He has also been allotted £10 per pupil by Hampshire County Council for the new books and equipment which he estimates will cost at least £30-£40 a head. To add to the confusion some of the syllabuses have yet to be approved, so that both children and parents do not know what they will be studying.

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Mr Pipes will be meeting his NUT staff on Monday and expects the meeting to be "strained".

The trouble is that he supports his teachers' arguments that the new system has been inadequately prepared and funded. He estimates that nationwide it needs an injection of £100 million.

Mrs Carol Barker, a member of the parents' association has a 13-year-old boy at the school and she said: "Many parents are concerned by the fact that the teachers have not learned the new syllabus and who can say that the marking will be correctly done? It is a worrying time. The children need the exams to back them up for their careers."

The order was handed down after Britain's most wanted woman, Evelyn Glenholmes, failed to give Irish police the slip when a court ordered her release two weeks ago.

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being an ancient art form which was accumulated in both Europe and the United States for exhibition and reputation to the following countries: Iraq, Iran, Turkey, etc.

Due to these unforeseen circumstances and the economic unsustainability the project has been irrevocably cancelled and whilst the rugs were being held in transit in Mr Mistry's Bonded Warehouse, Heathrow Airport and others, they have now been removed and must be disposed of immediately by Auction.

Due to the vast number of pieces and being held in the auctions have been divided into sixteen separate collections thus affording everyone an equal opportunity to acquire one or more of these masterpieces.

The goods have now been removed from the warehouses to a more convenient location.

Auction at The English Speaking Union, Darlington House, 27 Charles Street, London W1 (adjacent to Chesterfield Hotel) on Sunday 20th April, 1986 at 2 pm. Preview from 11 am

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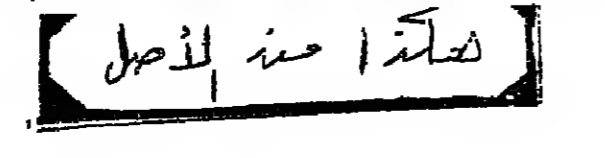
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	RUC Regular	Reserve
1973	4,285	2,340
1974	4,435	2,560
1975	4,585	2,815
1976	5,015	4,790
1977	5,354	4,673
1978	5,793	4,659
1979	6,230	4,995
1980	6,663	5,250
1981	7,051	4,770
1982	7,487	4,968
1983	7,914	4,780
1984	8,030	4,481
1985	8,150	4,445
1986	8,270	4,478



Tough measures to end loopholes which allow 'tug of love' kidnaps

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tough measures to tackle "tug of love" child kidnapping were published in the Government's Family Law Bill yesterday. The Bill aims to help retrieve children who have been unlawfully snatched by estranged parents and taken off to another part of the United Kingdom beyond reach of a court order.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, who introduced the Bill, said: "These measures have at their heart the welfare of the innocent victims of disputes between parents - the children."

He said it would help close loopholes in the law which "determined and unscrupulous people are at present able to use."

Parents could remove a child against its best interests from one part of the United Kingdom to another, conceal its whereabouts, and "frustrate the efforts of the courts to secure the child's welfare, often by cynically playing off one jurisdiction against another," Lord Hailsham said.

The Government had already taken action to deal with international child abduction through the Child Abduction Act 1984 and the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, due to come into force this summer.

The new proposals deal with child abduction within the three jurisdictions of England and Wales, Scotland



Muffery (left), a Shar Pei bred from healthy stock has been spared an overwrinkled coat, but Bulldog Dempsey had to be given a tracheotomy as his exaggerated breeding caused breathing troubles (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Efforts to end dog breeding cruelty

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association called yesterday for an end to breeding practices which it says inflict pain and disability on dogs in the name of fashion.

At a press conference in London yesterday, Dr Peter Bedford, from the Royal Veterinary College, Hertfordshire, and the association's central information officer, said the Kennel Club was making efforts to overcome hereditary problems by revised breed standards.

The association says that if the Shar Pei is bred from healthy stock it need not suffer at all from its wrinkled coat.

Bulldog Dempsey had to be given a tracheotomy because he could not breathe properly. Dr Bedford said that the trouble had evolved "basically through the whims of mankind".

The Kennel Club was making efforts to overcome hereditary problems by revised breed standards.

At a press conference examples were shown of the Chinese Shar Pei, a dog that has a heavily wrinkled face which can suffer eye troubles because the eyelids could turn in. It can also suffer chronic skin inflammation.

liflower and lettuce, had far higher levels of naturally occurring nitrates, he said, yet there was evidence to indicate that they could be beneficial in preventing stomach cancer.

Great vegetables, including celery, spinach, cabbage, cau-

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Nitrate risk 'minimal'

Fears about health risks from excessive nitrate levels in water supplies were not supported by medical evidence, Dr David Bryson, chief medical officer of ICI's agricultural division, said yesterday.

Nitrates were among the least toxic of substances

liflower and lettuce, had far higher levels of naturally occurring nitrates, he said, yet there was evidence to indicate that they could be beneficial in preventing stomach cancer.

Great vegetables, including celery, spinach, cabbage, cau-

BBC changes its mind on cricket

This summer's important one-day cricket matches will be covered by BBC Radio after all.

The decision comes after the television service was criticized for not covering the test series in the West Indies.

Now the corporation has de-

cid to provide full Radio 3 commentaries on the four one-day internationals against India and the finals of the Benson and Hedges and NatWest competitions.

Radio 2 is to start its spring schedules on Monday when the former Fleet Street editor,

Derek Jameson, will make his debut as breakfast presenter.

The day will include live broadcasts from HMS Ark Royal at sea. The Radio 2 season will include new shows by Richard Baker, Angela Rippon, Paul Jones, and Bob Holness.

Legal aid lawyers threaten system

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The chairman of the national body for solicitors specializing in legal aid, the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group, has called his Cambridge firm out of criminal legal aid work because of the poor rates of pay.

It is the latest of a growing number of firms stopping criminal legal aid work, including Bowling and Co., of east London, which has one of the heaviest legal aid practices, and the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group says that others will follow.

Mr Peter Soar, chairman of the LAPC, said: "The government-controlled rates of pay are so low that solicitors actually lose money doing criminal work under legal aid." Because of this Mr Soar's own company is with-

drawing altogether from criminal legal aid.

Mr Soar expressed concern that more and more firms will be forced to follow suit and the public will find it increasingly difficult to find lawyers willing to do the work. He added: "We cannot be optimistic for the future of the service."

The Government has agreed a routine 5 per cent uprating in criminal legal aid fees from April 1, and in the wake of the successful High Court action by the Bar, negotiations are about to start between both branches of the legal profession and the Government on pay claims ranging from 25 to 40 per cent.

Legal aid lawyers say the 5 per cent increase is totally inadequate to meet rising overheads.

The Law Commission cited as an example of the present situation a case of a child living in England with his mother, but whose father starts divorce proceedings in Scotland. Both English and Scottish courts can decide custody. The Scottish court gives it to the father, the English court to the mother.

There are no precise figures on the incidence of child kidnapping within the United Kingdom, but the Foreign Office estimates that about 200 children are abducted abroad each year. The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday the figure for internal kidnappings was thought to be at least that, and rising.

The Bill would also aim to rationalize the rules of the three jurisdictions so that parents could not evade a court order, or frustrate custody proceedings, just by invoking the jurisdiction of courts in another part of the United Kingdom.

Children's snack diet criticized

By Our Science Correspondent

Urgent action by the Department of Health to encourage healthier eating habits among children is being called for by nutritionists after an official report shows that youngsters are eating more snacks than any other single food.

The department yesterday denied suppressing the report which indicates that children risk serious illness later in life through consuming masses of fatty and sugary foods.

Although based on a survey of more than 3,000 children aged 10 to 15 in 1983, the report has not yet been published. Ministers are considering whether to publish an interim report.

The findings show that children eat more chips, crisps and snacks than any other single food. They eat 10 times more white bread than wholemeal bread, consume too many sugary drinks, and take too little fruit and fresh vegetables.

Savage's message on natural birth

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Women must re-assert their control over the birth of their babies rather than submit to the arbitrary rules laid down by doctors, Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician, told an international symposium on childbirth yesterday.

The increasing rate of caesarean births was "an absolute madness" that only women could stop, she said. Furthermore: "For many women, the chance to try for a natural birth, even if it fails, is absolutely essential."

"We should rediscover some of the wisdom of the ages and stop the ever-increasing spiral of intervention. I think that nature does know better."

Mrs Savage was speaking yesterday at the 1986 International Childbirth Symposium in London, which has as its theme the question: "Childbirth today: informed or perforce?"

"We have forgotten how to look at women in labour and pick up subtle signs of their condition because we are too busy writing things down and

Not for the squeamish

We were in two minds whether to publish this week's lead article in The Spectator.

Its subject is frightening - literally beyond conception.

But we decided to go ahead because the matter has now become so urgent.

Andrew Gimson investigates current experiments on human embryos in Britain, and asks, "Where does science fiction begin?"

After reading the article you may think that certain science fact should end.

In an altogether more humorous vein, John Mortimer takes us on another voyage round his eventful week in the Spectator Diary.

Just back from a visit to the

British Army of the Rhine, close to the Communist border, he tells of dinner there with a Lieutenant-Colonel.

As a trio plays Schubert in the background, the Colonel proclaims that his officers are individuals - they all wear different coloured socks.

Mortimer notes the frustration amongst the ranks: "They are involved in an endless game of 'let's pretend', like actors forever rehearsing for a play which can't be performed, because the first night would mean the ending of the world."

With all this, and Enoch Powell on the Domesday Book, Isabel Colegate on Anthony Powell's new novel, and Charles Glass on Colonel Gaddafi, "all human life is here."



Racing for the line: Play the Knave (No 6) is behind Castle Warden at the finish, shown clearly in the drawing (left).

Horse racing judge resigns

By Richard Dowden

A racing judge who caused a near-riot when he changed his decision about a winner at Hereford on Easter Monday, resigned yesterday.

Mr Peter Roffe-Silvester, a judge for 21 years, said he had written to the Jockey Club tendering his resignation and had no further comment.

After the Newton Williams Handicap Chase he announced that Castle Warden, the favourite, had been beaten by Play the Knave in a photo finish. Nearly 40 minutes later, after the weigh-in had been announced and the bookmakers had paid out on Play the Knave at nine to two, he declared the winner to be Castle Warden, the heavily backed even-money favourite.

The photograph clearly shows Castle Warden the winner. But in accordance with betting practice the bookmakers would not pay out on a decision corrected after the weigh-in was announced.

The police were called as furious punters hammered on the doors of the stewards and the offices. One officer who

attended the scene said: "It was absolute bedlam. People who had backed the original winner were very unhappy indeed."

"We were called in because officials were worried about what might happen if things were allowed to get out of hand."

Mr Roffe-Silvester's wrong decision will have saved the big off-course bookmakers thousands of pounds. Bank holiday punters often place accumulative bets on favourites, so that as each favourite wins, their winnings are put on the favourite in the next race.

Play the Knave was the only winner that was not a favourite that afternoon at Hereford. Ladbrokes said yesterday that it would be impossible to estimate how much would have been paid out on that race if the favourite had won, but it would certainly be thousands of pounds.

The £2,544.60 prize money however will go to Castle Warden and the horse will be recorded as the official winner unless a complaint by Mr

Mark Harrington, Play the Knave's jockey, is upheld. The Jockey Club is holding an inquiry into his allegation that Castle Warden interfered with him at the last fence.

He said: "If the judge's first decision had gone against me I would have objected there and then, as Castle Warden took my ground after the last fence. But when it was announced that I had won there was no point. I am now going to ask the Jockey Club to reverse the placings."

Mr Roffe-Silvester, aged 61, of Wilton, Somerset, made a similar error at Wincanton in 1984, but it was to do with placings not the winner.

The Hereford steward, Mr John Williams, said: "He admitted his error and I know he was very upset. It was very difficult to separate the horses... but it is an embarrassment."

The last time an error was made over a winner was at Fontwell in October 1983, when the race was wrongly awarded to a horse at eight to one instead of the 11 to 10 favourite.

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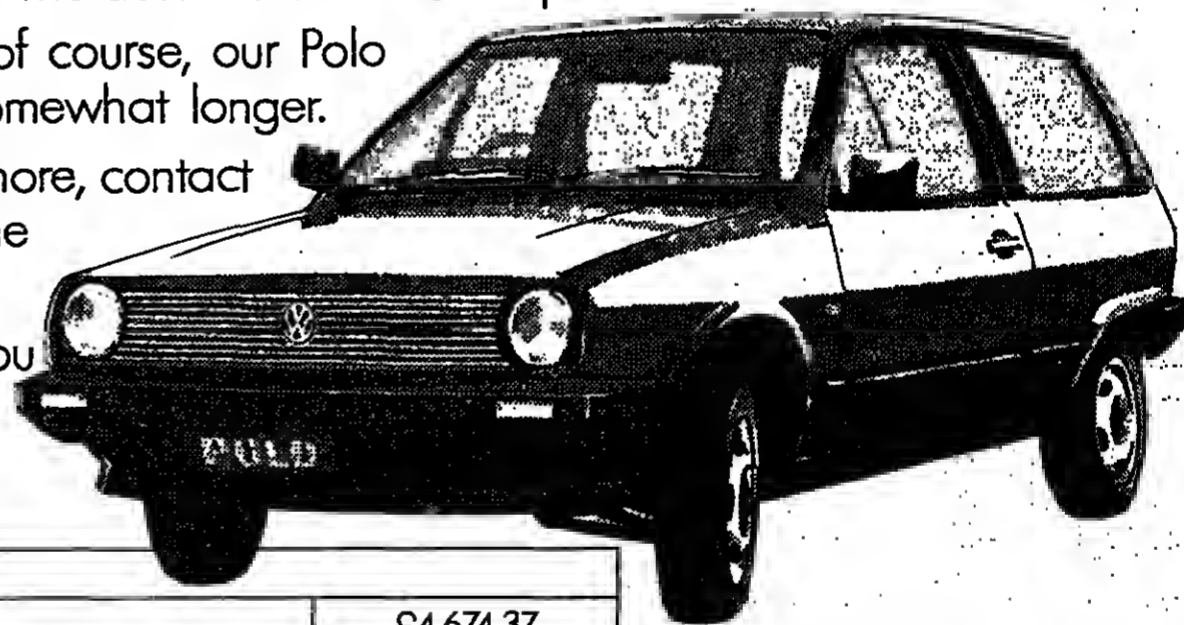
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Minimum 20% deposit	£934.87
Finance charges	£292.02
24 monthly payments	£167.98
Total credit price inc. option to purchase fee	£4,976.39
All applications subject to acceptance by V.A.G. Finance Ltd. Maximum period 24 months, minimum deposit 20% of purchase price.	
*Calculations do not include 1 year R.F.L., delivery charges or number plates.	
Customer saving compared with our typical interest rate 12% (24.1% APR) is £605.52 in above example.	



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'My son could be on that plane' says Gadaffi

Libya ducks bomb blame

From Robert Fisk Tripoli

Obviously anxious to avoid yet another confrontation with the Americans, Libya is going out of its way to avoid blame for the bombing of the TWA Boeing 727 airliner over Greece on Wednesday.

Quite apart from Colonel Gadaffi's own denial of responsibility, officials in Tripoli were asserting repeatedly yesterday that Libya knew nothing about the attack, it disapproved of it and — in the words of one Gadaffi functionary — "so far as we are concerned the matter is closed".

After the attack on passengers at Rome and Vienna airports in December, Colonel Gadaffi initially praised the

killings as a justified blow against the United States.

Yesterday, however, Libyan television news broadcast film of the bombed TWA airliner on the tarmac at Athens, quoting agency reports on the casualties with neither comment nor embellishment. It was the fifth item on the evening bulletin.

The Libyan leader's own statement was clear enough. "Who could do such a thing?" he asked.

"The passengers on a plane like this could be mixed, not just Americans. Anyone could be on that plane. My little son could be on that plane. This is not Libya's fault."

Colonel Gadaffi could not resist noting that President Reagan's policies had "created

an international campaign against Americans".

What he did not say was that he has personally helped to encourage just such a campaign — at the least emotionally — by specifically calling for attacks against American "interests" throughout the Middle East in retaliation for the confrontation between the Libyans and the US Sixth Fleet in the Gulf of Sirte last week.

If it turns out that a Palestinian group was responsible for the bombing — as an anonymous telephone caller to a news agency in Beirut suggested — then it could be difficult for Colonel Gadaffi to claim that he did not help to inspire them.

Not can a Libyan denial be accepted without question.

While Colonel Gadaffi may well have been quite ignorant of the impending attack on the TWA airliner, he said only in January that he was prepared to "give assistance" to revolutionary groups although he would not be "responsible for their individual acts".

His officials put a somewhat different gloss on matters yesterday. "We didn't plan this and we didn't do this, and we think it was wrong," one said.

"We are against terrorism. The Americans cannot accuse us this time."

Washington's restrained reaction to the bombing has led the Libyan authorities to believe that another round of mutually abusive rhetoric between Mr Reagan and Colonel Gadaffi can be avoided.

Tripoli on terror offensive

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Libyan-backed terrorist organizations have stepped up their planning in the past two months. Mr Michael Armacost, the US Under-Secretary of State for political affairs, said yesterday, citing American intelligence reports from Washington, however, had not found any direct link between Libya and Wednes-

day's bombing of a TWA airliner, "although we don't rule out Libyan involvement".

Speaking at a televised press conference linking four countries by satellite, Mr Armacost said the US did not give much credibility to Colonel Gadaffi's denial that Libya was behind the latest bombing. "We would not rely on his

word," he said. Libya had in the past publicly admitted sponsoring, financing and supporting terrorist operations.

"Whether or not he was involved in this bombing is one issue. We have no doubt, however, on the basis of his own intelligence reports, that he is deeply involved in supporting terrorist operations generally."

Recent intelligence reports had demonstrated that future terrorism would not only be directed at targets in the Middle East, North Africa and Western Europe, "but in far-flung portions of the world".

The US had no intention of responding to an overtone from Libya for dialogue with Washington. Two Libyan emissaries visited Saudi Arabia recently to try to establish contact with Vice-President Bush when he visits Riyadh this weekend.

Mr Armacost said Libya would have to improve its conduct before the US would agree to talk.

He defended the US decision to sail the Sixth Fleet into the Gulf of Sirte as an affirmation of maritime rights.

Finger is pointed at Cairo

From Peter Nichols Rome

The Italian authorities yesterday denied that inadequate security at Rome airport had allowed the bomb to be taken aboard the TWA Boeing.

Signor Oscar Scalfaro, the Interior Minister, said that "a person suspected of being in the lists of wanted terrorists certainly boarded the aircraft at Cairo and left the flight at Athens. In the course of his journey he was seated at the point in the cabin where the bomb later exploded".

The minister gave no name but investigators say that a suspected Arab passenger named Mansour or Mansour boarded the flight in Cairo.

After the terrorist had left the flight at Athens the aircraft flew to Rome with the bomb still hidden under the seat, he had occupied and returned to Athens with the bomb still intact.

It blew up on the approach to Athens but too late by a few minutes to destroy the aircraft.



Baby Demetra Klug and her mother Maria, of Annapolis, Maryland, TWA blast victims. Mrs King's mother also died.

Mafioso 'sings' in court

Palermo (Reuters) — The Mafia informer, Tommaso Buscetta, made his first appearance at a trial of nearly 470 alleged gangsters yesterday and said he decided to "sing" because the criminal society had betrayed his ideals.

Buscetta, aged 57, made his long-awaited appearance at the two-month-old trial being held in a fortified bunker next to Palermo's Ucciardone jail after being flown from the US.

He had given evidence at the "Pizza Connection" Mafia trial in New York, enabling investigators to indict 467 alleged gangsters on charges ranging from drug trafficking to murder.

Ignoring the cages containing many of the accused, Buscetta told the court: "I remain a member of the Cosa Nostra (Mafia) in the same spirit as when I joined."

"But, from the 1970s onwards, the ideals of Cosa Nostra changed and there have been acts of violence which do not correspond to the original ideals."

Arab arrests fuel Israeli suspicions

Jerusalem — The arrest recently of an undisclosed number of Israeli Arabs reported to have received terrorist training in Syria has provoked concern here that the traditionally quiescent Arab population inside Israel's pre-1967 borders may be becoming more involved in terrorist activity (David Bernstein writes).

The men arrested, said to be members of Dr George Habash's radical Syrian-based PFLP, are suspected of having murdered a 19-year-old Sergeant Moshe Tamam after picking him up while he was hitchhiking home.

The press is suggesting that the investigation into the murder of several other Israelis during the past two years may be nearing completion.

Iran's gentle face of Islam dies aged 83

Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari, one of the five grand ayatollahs of the Shia branch of Islam, has died in a Tehran hospital aged 83 (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

The ayatollah, who came to prominence during and after the 1979 revolution in Iran as the gentle, pragmatic face of the clergy, was later placed under house arrest by the regime and accused of involvement in a plot to overthrow the Islamic republic, a charge which he denied. He continued to enjoy a considerable following.

Bonn first choice for French visit

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

M. Jean Bernard Raimond, a name known here only to his fellow professional diplomats until he ceased to be French Ambassador to Moscow two weeks ago, chose Bonn yesterday for his first trip abroad as France's Foreign Minister.

The venue was intended, by both France and West Germany, to emphasize that each regards the other as its most important European relation.

With the same intention, it was announced after M Raimond's talks with his West German counterpart, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, that Bonn would also be the venue for M Jacques Chirac's first appearance on the international scene as newly-elected Prime Minister.

Herr Genscher spoke yesterday of West Germany's "continuing good relations" with France. But there is no doubt that the arrival of M Raimond, the impending arrival of M Chirac and the expected continuation of the regular meetings which Chancellor Kohl has with President Mitterrand, have raised here the characteristic German question: who is in charge?

The Germans like tidiness in French foreign policy, as in all else. Whoever in the Quai

d'Orsay does turn out to be in charge of that policy, it is assumed here that, whatever his skills, it will not be M Raimond.

The West Germans realize that diplomats can also be the real makers of foreign policy, but they assume the French chose a diplomat at this particular time because those are the sort of skills needed to carry out whatever foreign policy emerges.

Nevertheless, the West Germans want to know what that foreign policy will be.

In the past year, there has been disagreement between France and West Germany about the space-based Strategic Defence Initiative. France is against it, and West Germany is in favour of it, at least in the research stage of Star Wars.

Bonn will want M Chirac to clarify his thoughts on the issue. If they turn out to be genuinely different from M Mitterrand's, the West Germans will then have to reconcile themselves to their closest European partner having two policies on important matters.

The West Germans console themselves with the thought that the French themselves now have the same problem.

Astronauts questioned

Washington — The presidential commission investigating the Challenger shuttle disaster held a public hearing yesterday to question senior astronauts worried about flight safety problems (Mobsin Ali writes).

Mr William Rogers, the commission's chairman and a former Secretary of State, said his panel was giving careful attention to their concerns.

Schmidt wins Onassis peace award

Athens — Herr Helmut Schmidt, the former West German Chancellor, has won an Onassis Foundation award for his contribution to peace (Mario Modiano writes).

The winners of the Onassis prizes, which each carry a \$100,000 (£67,000) grant, were announced yesterday by Professor Yiannis Georgaklis, the foundation's permanent secretary.

The award dedicated to man in his environment is shared between the Salzburg Festival, directed by Herbert von Karajan, and the European Community Youth Orchestra.

The prize dedicated to man in society was won jointly by the International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims in Copenhagen and Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, for its continuous, fair and prompt service.

Bulgarian reform 'lacks fire'

Sofia (Reuters) — Signs are emerging from Bulgaria's Communist Party congress that economic reforms suggested by Mr Todor Zhivkov, the veteran leader, may be less radical than rhetoric suggests.

"The congress seems now to be planning a 'reform 1' or '2' can be another Hungary or Yugoslavia emerging here," one Western diplomat said yesterday, the second day of the four-day meeting.

Mr Zhivkov's opening address and the Central Committee's report have failed to develop sufficiently the themes of reform and "scientific and technological revolution". It has not been explained how the new economic line will be implemented, diplomats said.

The Bulgarian leader has vigorously promoted change for the past year after it became clear that earlier reform attempts, known as the new economic mechanism, had failed to improve the quality of Bulgaria's industrial output.

"His thrust yesterday was as expected — his science and technical revolution and the reform of management structure. But it's sounding now more rhetoric than action," a Western analyst said.

The one new element was an elaboration on the role of an economic council set up in January. This would act as an auxiliary body to the Council of Ministers (Cabinet), allocating resources.

Earlier statements on reform had promised radical changes in prices, wages, finance and management policies to decentralize decision-making and attune the economy more to the realities of the domestic and international markets.

Argentina honours Falklands dead

From A Correspondent Buenos Aires

The fourth anniversary of the invasion that started the 1982 Falklands war was commemorated in Argentina by numerous small but emotionally laden ceremonies.

Throughout Wednesday the three armed services held ceremonies honouring the approximately 1,000 dead while official homage was offered in a Mass attended by President Alfonsín, the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, the Interior Minister, Señor Antonio Troccoli, the Labour Minister, Señor Hugo Barrionuevo, the Defence Secretary, Señor Horacion Jaunarena and the heads of the armed forces.

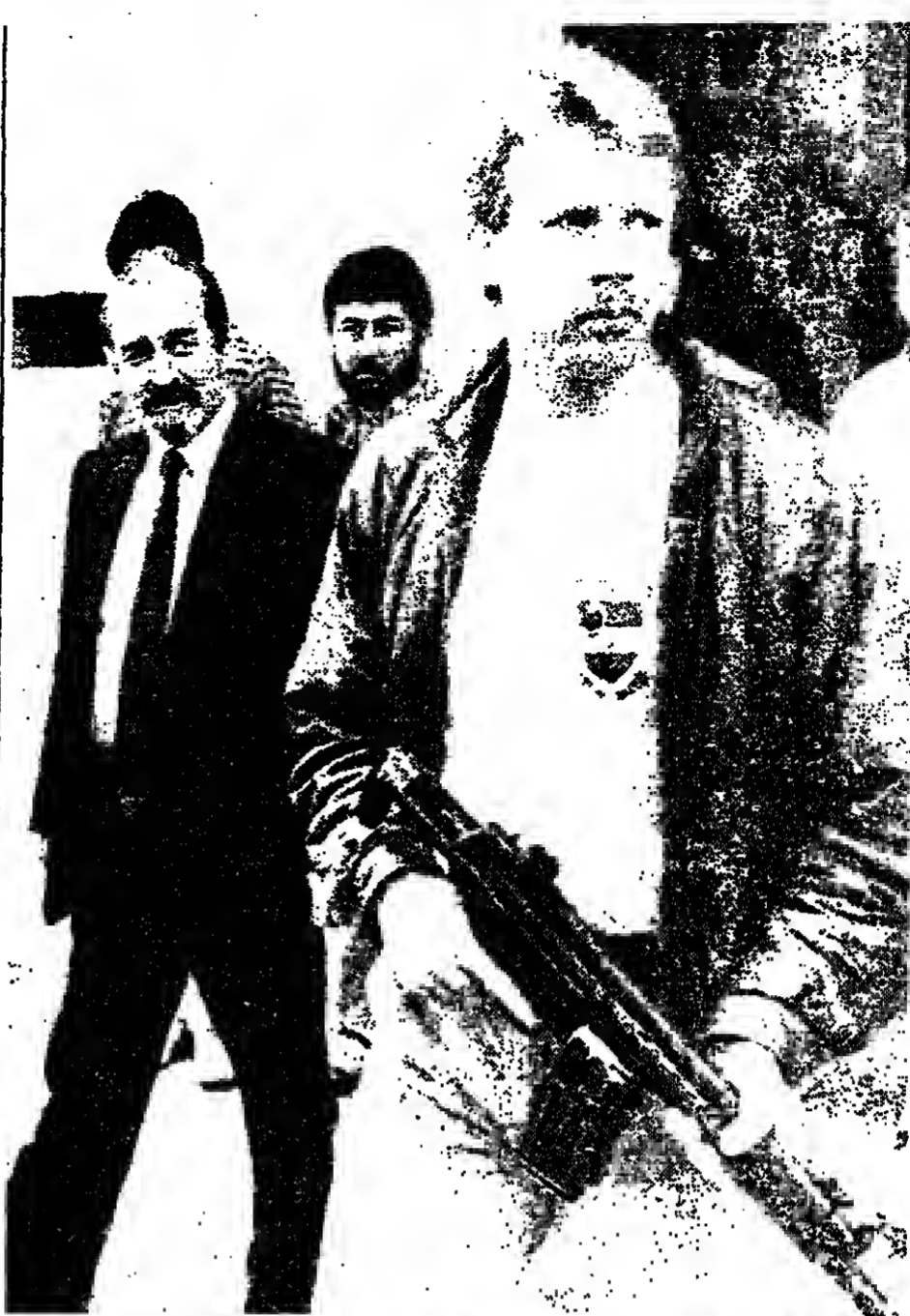
The Mass was held in the military chapel of Stella Maris. The homily by a chaplain emphasized the intensification of diplomatic efforts to recover the islands.

A demonstration by supporters of ex-servicemen, estimated at up to 5,000 strong, marched in the evening from the Plaza de la Republica, where the former combatants have been holding a "camp-out" for four days, to the municipal government building.

In a document read at the rally it was claimed that 65 per cent of the veterans are unemployed, 70 per cent lack housing and 28 per cent are without medical services.

The marchers, mainly from human rights organizations and left-wing political and student groups, responded fervently to the chant of "Attention, attention. Malvinas are the road to liberation," and denunciations of General Galtieri, head of the military junta during the conflict.

The former soldiers demanded the formation of a commission, in which they would participate, to investi-



Sir John Gray, heavily guarded, leaving yesterday's meeting with a top Shia official.

Beirut students strike over missing British teachers

Beirut (AP) — Students and teachers at the American University of Beirut yesterday staged a half-day strike to protest against the disappearance of Mr Leigh Douglas, a political science professor and one of two Britons missing since Friday.

Mr Douglas, aged 34, of Norfolk, was reported missing after failing to show up for classes on Tuesday.

The university's faculty association unanimously voted to ask all members to stop teaching pending an investigation into his disappearance.

The other missing Briton is Mr Philip Padfield, aged 40, of Bideford, Devon. He is the director of the International Language Centre in Beirut.

None of Beirut's extremist factions has claimed to have abducted the men last seen at a west Beirut bar.

Sir John Gray, the British Ambassador to Lebanon, yesterday met Mr Hussein Youssef, a senior official of the Shia Muslim Amal, in an effort to locate the missing men.

French quit: French ceasefire observers left embattled Beirut yesterday, ending a two-year mission monitoring clashes among rival militias (Reuters reports).

Port officials said the 45 sailors from Jounieh after farewell ceremonies with militias and the Lebanese Army,

which was reported to have awarded them medals.

France ordered the force home on Tuesday, saying its task had become impossible because of continuing clashes between rival militias along Beirut's Green Line front.

Militias clash: Shia Muslim militia and guerrillas loyal to Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, battled with marauders and rocket-propelled grenades in Beirut's Sahra and Chatilla refugee camps yesterday (Our correspondent writes).

The seven days' fighting has claimed at least 28 lives, most of them civilians living in and around the camps in south Beirut.

Seoul ready to defend games

From David Watts, Seoul

Faced with North Korean threats to disrupt this year's Asian games, South Korea and the United States are considering the use of airborne warning and control aircraft to keep watch on the North, with anti-aircraft missiles ready to ward off any attacks and the US Navy standing by.

The plans were announced after the annual security consultative meeting between Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, and his South Korean counterpart, Mr Lee Ki Baek.

A joint committee will be set up to review security measures for both the Asian games and the Olympic Games in 1988 "so that we can respond very strongly to disruption efforts by North Korea", Mr Lee said.

In recent negotiations the North Koreans have been demanding a half share in what would be called the Seoul-Pyongyang Olympic Games. Their failure to win that share of this important pie is likely to bring disruption, the South Koreans fear.

Washington says North Korean forces are now deployed in much greater strength near the border, with 65 per cent of their ground forces there. The South believes this is part of a strategy to win a decisive advantage in the first week of any fighting, before US reinforcements arrive to supplement the 40,000 American troops already here.

The deployments by the North "seriously reduce warning time, and continued vigilance will be required", the joint communiqué said. Both sides agreed to improve early-war-

ning systems and increase exchanges of strategic information.

Mr Weinberger yesterday reiterated America's "unshakable commitment to the peace, security and freedom of South Korea".

Asked if he felt the US was helping to defend a democratic government in South Korea he replied: "I'm satisfied that what we're doing is desired by the Government of the Republic of Korea and is essential for the preservation of the Government and the preservation of freedom and peace in the peninsula."

He said he would not get involved in the internal affairs of South Korea when it was suggested to him that opposition rallies were an invitation to North Korea to create trouble in the South.

Nevada N-test step attacked by Moscow

Geneva — By rejecting Moscow's call for a joint moratorium on nuclear weapons tests, the United States was taking a dangerous step that could lead to catastrophe, Mr Andronik Petrosyants, a senior Soviet official, told the 40-nation disarmament conference here yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

Mr Petrosyants, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Atomic Energy, repeated an admonition by Mr Gorbachev that Moscow would be forced to resume testing if America went ahead with a test in Nevada later this month.

Soviet scientists could not accept an American invitation to observe the Nevada blast because this would amount to approval of continued testing.

Mr Donald Lowitz, the American delegate, did not respond.

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Mr Donald Lowitz, the American delegate, did not respond.

Heat still on Palme case man

Mr Victor Gunnarsson, the man originally charged with the murder of the Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme, but later released for lack of evidence, said yesterday he was still under "deep suspicion" by the police.

In a letter to TT, the Swedish domestic news agency, Mr Gunnarsson, who is being kept in protective custody at a secret address, said many members of the public also suspected that he had killed Mr Palme.

He attacked the Swedish mass media for their handling of the case.

A forensic test by West German police in Wiesbaden on a jacket worn by Mr Gunnarsson located minute particles of gunpowder on a sleeve. However, police said yesterday they had been unable to link the particles with the bullets fired at Mr Palme and his wife, Lisbet, who escaped unhurt.

A Swedish Air Force jet has taken more aerial pictures of the area of central Stockholm where Mr Palme was shot on February 28, as the hunt for the murder weapon, a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver, continues.

Police now seem to believe the gun may have been thrown on to a roof. All 3,000 such Smith & Wesson revolvers licensed in Sweden were yesterday being checked by police.

Gurky join jungle exercise

Kuala Lumpur (AP) — Malaysian forces are conducting joint exercise with British Gurkhas from Hong Kong in the jungles of Kota Ting district, 150 miles south here.

It involves 2,000 people including 250 troops of the 6 Gurkha Company and 1,500 personnel from the 21st Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment.

The joint exercise is designed to train Malaysia's 21 Battalion in conventional warfare and to enhance cooperation and understanding with British Army units.

Norway gets new paper

Norway's leading quality newspaper, *Aftenposten*, took a step towards launching its country's first national Sunday newspaper since 1919.

It told its staff that a 32-page weekend edition will be published from Saturday, April 12.

Cash transfer

Chambers, France (Reuters) — Four masked gunmen burst into the offices of a fund transfer company here and escaped with 8 million franc (about £800,000).

Mission over

Lima (Reuters) — Peru has ordered the International Monetary Fund to close its mission in Lima.

Rapist shot

Port Moresby (Reuters) — Police rescued a kidnapped Australian woman raped by gang on a golf course shooting dead one of his seven attackers and wounding another.

Dalai's tour

Amsterdam (Reuters) — T Dalai Lama is to visit West Germany, Austria, The Netherlands and France next month, a Dutch-Tibetan contact group said.

Modern China

Peking (AP) — China, when all land and important industry is state-owned, is drafting its first bankruptcy law, its Vice-Premier, Mr Yao Yili said.

Snapp reward

San Francisco (Reuters) — The mayor of San Francisco, Mrs Dianne Feinstein, offers \$500 rewards to citizen photographers of graffiti vandals.

Cairo trial

The Egyptian prosecutor, Mr Mohamed Abdel Aziz el Guindi, announcing this 1,236 people are to be charged in connection with the February riots in Cairo which killed 107 people.

Long sail

Miami Beach (AP) — After weathering 24 days across the Atlantic alone on his specially equipped sailboat, two Frenchmen arrived from the Bahamas, completing the first part of their journey from North Africa to New York.

Space tribute

Washington (UPI) — Nas and the Astronauts Memorial Foundation have announced plans to build a memorial to the Challenger seven and other astronauts who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Kabul deaths

Moscow (AFP) — Two Soviet diplomats in Kabul have been sentenced to death after executed for gold smuggling according to an underground news bulletin circulating here.

Eleven killed

Magdalena, New Mexico (AFP) — A US Air Force HC130 plane crashed in a desolate area of New Mexico killing all 11 crew members.

Hudson sale

New York (AP) — A Steinway baby grand piano that furnished Rock Hudson's Manhattan flat and a needle point rug created by the late actor were high sellers at an auction of items from his estate which brought a total of almost \$90,000.

Dud bomb

Washington (AP) — Law enforcement officials announced yesterday that a dud letter bomb sent to the US Senate majority leader, Mr Robert Dole of Kansas,

Natal sets out on uncertain road to black majority rule

From Michael Hornsby, Durban

A conference which could lead to the acceptance of black majority rule by South African whites, albeit only at provincial level, opened yesterday in the city hall of this bustling port on the coast of Natal.

The Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal "homeland", Chief Gaba Buthelezi, told the gathering of 750 dignitaries, guests and delegates that the conference was "the trust which we in this region and in all of South Africa have with destiny".

It offered an opportunity "to cut the Gordian knot of racism and injustice which has cost our country so dearly" and could be a turning-point, determining whether South Africa's problems would be solved peacefully or through bloodshed.

The KwaZulu tribal government, which administers more than 40 fragments of territory scattered throughout Natal, and the Natal Provincial Council, which runs those parts reserved for whites, are the co-convenors of the conference, or *Indaba*, to use its Zulu title.

The two bodies have already submitted a proposal to the government for a joint executive authority in Natal, on which they would be equally represented. The brief of the *Indaba* is to draft a proposal for a joint legislative assembly.

Any representation in the proposed assembly based on population must produce a black majority. In mid-1983 the province had 6,620,323 people, of whom 5,232,135 were blacks (mainly Zulus), 706,691 Indians, 586,018 whites (mainly English-speaking) and 95,479 Coloureds.

There is also the question of what powers the assembly would be given.

After the public opening session, the 34 organizations represented, either as full participants or observers, began their deliberations behind closed doors. The rest of the conference will be in camera.

It could last for three to six months, meeting once or twice a week. Its final proposal is to be the product of "consensus" and could possibly be submitted to all the people of Natal in a referendum.

Nine organizations turned down or ignored invitations to the *Indaba*. They include the radical African National Congress and the United Democratic Front, and the two main independent black trade union groupings: the Council of South African Unions and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

These groups maintain that a special constitutional structure for Natal would be divisive and hamper the cause of black liberation nationally.

Rebuke to Tutu after speech on sanctions

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Black and white political organizations in South Africa were polarized yesterday after the call by the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev Desmond Tutu, for punitive sanctions against the Pretoria Government by the international community.

In a scathing comment, Mr Louis Nel, Deputy Information Minister, said such measures would be disastrous for blacks in South Africa and neighbouring countries, "but not for the Bishop of Johannesburg".

A police spokesman refused to say if they were investigating possible charges of economic subversion against the bishop. Conviction carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in jail.

Bishop Tutu gave an ultimatum to Pretoria to begin dismantling apartheid within two years when he was enthroned early last year.

On Wednesday he detailed his efforts since 1976 to persuade government leaders "urgently to remove the causes of black anger" but added that nothing President Botha had said convinced him that the present government was serious about dismantling apartheid.

He described Mr Botha as a man who had lost the "convictions of his courage" after telling whites they could not alone determine the country's future for ever.

Both the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Azanian People's Organization (Azapo), the two largest legal anti-apartheid groups in the country, yesterday exhibited rare agreement in supporting the bishop's call.

Mr Murphy Morobe, UDF spokesman, said he hoped the international community would see it "as a desperate call... to exert more decisive pressure on this racist government". Azapo said the bishop's action was long overdue.

But there was strong rejection of the bishop's call from across the white political spectrum. Mrs Helen Suzman, the opposition Progressive Federal Party MP, said sanctions would cause "horrendous" unemployment in South Africa, which has no social security safety net.



An emotional Mr Wallace telling his supporters that he has climbed his last mountain.

Study of Zimbabwe training

From Jan Rasch, Harare

Mr John Stanley, the British Minister of State for Defence, arrived here yesterday for a close look at British military training operations.

Early this year, officers of the 60-man British military advisory training team began instructing Mozambique officers at the battalion battle school in Nyanga.

About 170 Mozambicans will be trained during the year after an agreement last year between the governments of Mozambique, Britain and Zimbabwe.

At the end of the month 22 British armoured car and artillery instructors will return home as they have completed courses mounted for Zimbabwe armoured vehicle and artillery units.

Radio war: The US has been accused by Harare of backing a clandestine radio station in South Africa which broadcasts news reports and commentaries in support of anti-Zimbabwe rebels in Matabeland.

Man of Alabama bows out in tears

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Governor George Wallace of Alabama, declaring that he has climbed his last political mountain, has decided not to seek re-election in November.

In tears and slurring slightly because of partial deafness, he appeared but a shadow of the fiery old populist as he said farewell seated in his wheelchair.

He told a packed, hushed chamber of the state House of Representatives in Montgomery that the five bullets that struck and paralysed him in an assassination attempt in 1972 "pave me a thorn in the flesh like it did the Apostle Paul. I prayed it would be removed but it was not".

He said this began running out for his political ambitions when those bullets hit him. Although he was "doing good" at the moment, he felt that as he grew older the effects of his problems might become more noticeable.

"There are still some personal hills I want to climb but for now I must pass the rope and pick to another climber." The opinion polls have been

looking gloomy for Mr Wallace. He might have lost the governorship. As it is, he will bow out officially next January, ending 25 years of domination of Alabama politics and a career which took him briefly and tantalizingly beyond the humid provinces of the South.

Everyone remembers him for his battle cry in 1963: "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation for ever."

In later years he has courted and captured black support, graphically demonstrating the metamorphosis of Deep South politics.

In 1982 a third of Alabama's blacks voted for him. Many black leaders were among the farewell throng.

"Some of you young people might not realize that I paid a high price in 1972 for doing what the people of this state wanted," Mr Wallace, aged 66, said. "I have not used this to bring sympathy for myself or my campaign. It is time to lay aside what will never return and pick up the future."

Chirac's coalition is three seats short of majority

From Diana Goldes, Paris

The final composition of the political groups in the new French National Assembly gives the ruling right-wing RPR-UDF coalition 286 seats, three short of the absolute majority it originally said it needed before it would be willing to form a government.

Five of the 12 "Diverse Right" deputies who had been expected to give the new coalition their support have decided to remain unaffiliated. That does not necessarily mean that they will not vote with the majority, but it will make the task of the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, that much more difficult.

Official figures for the political groups in the new Assembly are: RPR 155 deputies; UDF 131; Socialists 212; National Front 35; Communists 35; non-affiliated 9.

The first important test of support for the Government will come after the Cabinet meeting next Wednesday, when M Chirac intends to call a vote of confidence after a speech outlining the Government's policies.

Most of the supporters of M Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who were initially vehemently opposed to any government of cohabitation, have now indicated that they will support such a vote. But the 35 National Front deputies have said they will "reserve their reply" while making it clear that they would vote against any attempt to restore majority voting in general elections.

The Prime Minister's office has already announced that enabling Bills to allow the

Government to bypass Parliament and legislate by decree on a return to majority voting and on a series of proposed economic measures will be put to the next Cabinet meeting, that is to say just before the vote of confidence.

M Chirac and his partners are not too worried, however. They note with satisfaction that M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the RPR candidate for the presidency of the National Assembly, was elected on the second ballot with an absolute majority, thereby avoiding a third and final ballot.

Ex-President Giscard d'Estaing is now left on the sidelines as a potentially critical observer of the increasingly RPR-dominated coalition. He is said to have mirrored down M Chirac's offer of the Foreign Ministry.

Also on the sidelines is another potentially dangerous political "heavyweight", M Barre.

He may, however, no longer constitute quite such a threat to M Chirac as before last month's general election. Since his appointment as Prime Minister, M Chirac has sprung to the top of the opinion polls, outdistancing even M Barre who had held the pre-eminent position among right-wing leaders for the previous two years.

President Mitterrand has told M Chirac that he will send his promised "message" to Parliament next Tuesday, once the elections for the various posts in the new National Assembly have been completed and just before the vote of confidence.

Five more arrested in Italian wine scandal

Taranto, Italy (Reuter) - A southern Italian wine producer and four other men were arrested yesterday by police investigating the deaths of 15 people who drank adulterated wine.

The arrests brought to seven the number of people held in connection with the wave of deaths caused by wine which was strengthened with methyl alcohol. An eighth suspect is being sought, police said.

Antonio Fusco, aged 54, who owns two wine firms in

the town of Manduria, near Taranto, was held on charges of selling wine containing illegally high amounts of the chemical.

All five men have been warned that they could also face manslaughter charges.

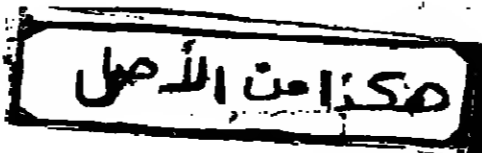
Yesterday, a 37-year-old woman from Albenga, northern Italy, died after drinking contaminated wine and swallowing tranquilizers. Only a post-mortem can determine whether she died from the effects of methyl alcohol.

June 29th 1983



ACTUAL SIZE 3 1/2"

Apricot introduced the first personal computer to use 3 1/2" disks



Lange seeks to placate Paris but rejects compromise on agents

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, is putting out strong feelers to Paris, saying he wants to improve relations with France after the Rainbow Warrior affair, but is insisting that there can be no deal on the release of the French agents jailed for their part in sabotaging the Greenpeace ship.

Mr Lange and his advisers are obviously hoping that the new Government of M Jacques Chirac will be in a position to mend fences. But sources in Wellington say all responses from Paris indicate that the release of the agents, Captain Dominique Prieur and Major Alain Mafart, is a prerequisite to improved relations.

A resumption of normal ties is of vital importance to New Zealand because some of its exports to France and the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia are being affected. Later this year New Zealand will negotiate with the European Community to continue its butter deal with the EEC.

To some extent, both prime ministers are captives of their

electorates and their own political rhetoric. M Chirac said last year that freeing the agents was a priority for France, and he would be prepared to use trade sanctions to secure their release.

But Mr Lange, for his part, would find it difficult to agree to their early release after his strong expressions of outrage over the Rainbow Warrior bombing and French attempts at a cover-up.

He recognized this himself when he told journalists that photographs of the agents sunbathing on a beach in the south of France would put a new government in office at the next New Zealand election. Polls have indicated strong public opposition to an early release.

Since the change of government in France, both Mr Lange and Mr Geoffrey Palmer, his deputy, have used every opportunity to express their wish for better relations. Mr Lange sent congratulations to M Chirac from Jakarta, while on a tour of Asia.

He emphasized the point in an interview with the French newspaper *Liberation* in Hong

Kong and the *International Herald Tribune* correspondent in Singapore. In radio interviews at home he said he would be ready to visit Paris in an effort to improve strained relations.

Sources close to Mr Lange said that visit, if agreed, could fit in with his planned trip to Britain, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and West Germany in May or June.

Mr Lange, however, has not said precisely what he has in mind for the agents serving 10-year sentences. He told *Liberation* all such sentences came up for review after three years, but this week he admitted he had been mistaken: the law had changed and such reviews were held after five years.

Since the French agents were jailed last year, this would tend to rule out a review until 1990 — a New Zealand election year.

New Zealanders still recall that Mr Lange initially said the agents would not be released in the term of his Government. The next elections are expected by September.



Pakistan still against deal with Kabul

From Michael Hanly, Islamabad

The Pakistan Government firmly refused yesterday to talk directly to the Kabul regime about peace in Afghanistan despite progress reported in the indirect negotiations led by the UN Secretary-General's special representative, Señor Diego Cordovez.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, told Sir Geoffrey Howe that Pakistan's position on direct dealings was fundamentally unchanged, according to British officials.

The talks between the two foreign ministers were the first of a series during Sir Geoffrey's three-day visit. The bulk of the time was taken up with a discussion of progress towards an Afghan settlement.

Sahabzada Yaqub told Sir Geoffrey that the sixth round of indirect talks in Geneva in December reached an impasse because the Afghans were holding up discussion on the fourth and final instrument of agreement between the two until Pakistan agreed to negotiate directly.

This would be tantamount to legal recognition of the regime of President Karmal, and Pakistan reiterated yesterday that there can be no question of direct talks until the fourth instrument has been finalized.

In his last round of shuttle diplomacy, however, between Islamabad and Kabul last month Señor Cordovez said that he had a document from Kabul which outlined a timetable for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Agreement on this would be a significant part of the fourth instrument.

Such information as has filtered out about the proposed timetable indicates that the Russians want the withdrawal of their troops to be spread over a reasonably long period — certainly more than a year — and some observers believe it may be more than two years.

A report in one of its leading English-language newspapers yesterday suggested that there had been something of a shift in the country's position on direct talks, but the Sahabzada firmly squashed any such notion in his talks with the British.

He said that the staunch support of the British Government had been of assistance in helping Pakistan maintain its position, despite the pressure

put on it to change by cross-border aggression from Afghanistan and internal disruption.

Sir Geoffrey said that Britain admired Pakistan's firmness and assured the Sahabzada of continued support.

He spoke of British concern about human rights in Pakistan, indicating particular worries over political prisoners and members of the Ahmadiyah sect, who have been forbidden to describe themselves as Muslims.

Sahabzada Yaqub declared unequivocally that there were no political prisoners in Pakistan and that all those imprisoned were entitled to due process of law. He assured Sir Geoffrey that all Pakistanis were entitled to freedom of religion. *Spectrum*, page 10

Security women fell summit protectors

Muscular women from the Japanese Security Police (left) effortlessly falling burly male "attackers" to demonstrate the protection in store for seven world leaders at next month's economic summit.

The mock attackers, themselves members of the security police, lunged forward at a signal with parade-ground precision flourishing knives and pistols (Reuter reports from Tokyo).

In perfect unison the women deflected the weapons, seized their opponents by arm and throat and hurled them to the ground in front of the Akasaka State guest house, site of the summit from May 4 to May 6.

On parade were the 1,100 police officers who have been assigned to protect the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany.

The 200 security police showed how they would fling a human shield round any leader the instant an attacker darted from the crowd.

A Japanese detective acted as stand-in for President Reagan to show the speed with which he could be transferred from limousine to helicopter. A policeman briefly played the part of Mrs Thatcher reading the red carpet to the conference hall.

China may strengthen Soviet link

Peking (Reuter) — China signalled fresh economic links with the Soviet Union yesterday, saying both sides were discussing working together on nuclear power technology.

The Vice-Premier, Mr Li Peng, giving a rare press conference, said nuclear power co-operation was suggested last month at a Sino-Soviet meeting in Peking.

Western diplomats said the disclosure indicated closer economic relations between the two communist powers despite a long-standing ideological rift.

Mr Li said: "Co-operation with the Soviet Union (on nuclear power technology) is not on the agenda yet. It will be decided after study by the group."

Chile junta supporter murdered

Santiago (Reuter) — The leader of a pro-government political party was killed by gunmen as trouble flared in the Chilean capital, the northern mining city of Calama and two other provincial cities.

The killing on Wednesday night came at the end of a day of disturbances in which at least 50 people were arrested across the country. Seven others, including three policemen, were injured in the unrest.

Señora Juana Flores said her husband, Señor Simon Yevenes, aged 42, was shot by a man in uniform from the door of his shop in a poor district of southern Santiago while two uniformed accomplices waited outside in a pick-up truck.

Señor Yevenes was a community leader of the Independent Democratic Union, a right-wing political movement which strongly supports President Pinochet's junta.

Bolivian teachers take to streets

From John Enders, La Paz

The teachers' strike and educational crisis in Bolivia took a turn for the worse this week. President Victor Paz Estenssoro's Government declared vacant the positions of the 75,000 striking public sector teachers, and they and



President Paz Estenssoro. Action against teachers.

university students took to the streets here amid tear gas barrages from the security forces.

The situation threatened in deteriorate into outright street violence and is the main social and political problem confronting the hard-pressed civilian government.

Public sector teachers are demanding three to fourfold increases in their salaries but the Government has refused, saying the bankrupt national treasury has no money.

Classes should have begun the first week of February, the traditional start of the school year, but there are no signs of an early settlement. By declaring the jobs vacant, the Government has opened the door to new applicants willing to work, but whether they can fill the 75,000 vacancies remains to be seen.

India revives attempt to mollify Sikhs

Delhi — The Indian Government, trying to mollify Sikh resentment, has picked a new commission to identify Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab to give to neighbouring Haryana state in exchange for the town of Chandigarh (Kuldip Nayar writes). The commission, headed by the Indian Supreme Court Justice E.S. Venkataramiah, has been given a month for the task.

Manila to bring Marcos charges

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Philippines Government will file criminal and civil charges within two months against deposed President Marcos to recover an estimated \$5 billion (£3.4 billion) he is believed to have hidden in Swiss bank accounts.

The Swiss, who last month froze withdrawals from his six accounts, have urged the quick prosecution of the former president, warning that the unprecedented freeze or-

der is only temporary.

Mr Jovito Salonga, chairman of Manila's Commission on Good Government, said the mere filing of charges under the country's Corrupt Practices Act could set aside Swiss laws and lead to the eventual return of the assets to President Aquino's government. He said a civil suit could be tried in absentia.

Mr Pedro Yap, a commission member who conferred with Swiss authorities in Bern

last month, said he took advice on how the commission could challenge Switzerland's very strict bank secrecy laws.

● Barricade lifted: Several thousand militant strikers early yesterday lifted their barricade at America's Subic Bay Naval Base, 50 miles north-west of Manila, 24 hours after they had refused to accept their union's order to return to work.

April 2nd 1986



ACTUAL SIZE 3 1/2"

Seems like the idea is catching on

USE

On April 2nd, International Business Machines Corporation announced a new computer using dual 720k 3 1/2" disks and 3 1/2" disk drive attachable to the new XT and AT personal computers.

apricot

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A cutting edge to a hard sell

Blades are being sharpened once again in the annual war of the mowing machines but, as Torin Douglas reports, both sides seem to have changed their angles of attack

Jonathan Swift were writing today, the chances are that Lilliput would have gone to war not over the proper end to break an egg but the right way to mow a lawn.

Over the past six years, the real life controversy over which way a lawnmower's blades should rotate (cylinder or rotary) has been every bit as heated as the fictional dispute between the Big-endians and the Small-endians.

The two protagonists - Qualcast, in the green livery, and Flymo, in the orange - have conducted one of the most public and acrimonious battles ever seen between two businesses in Britain, matched only by the recent takeover hostilities in the City.

They have criticized each other's products in television commercials and press advertisements, then reported each other to the advertising standards authorities. They have challenged each other to duels on the lawn, then run ads featuring the press cuttings that favoured them.

One firm has questioned the safety of its rival's products, the other has levelled accusations of "bad taste" and "desperation tactics".

Yet both companies have also responded to each other's attacks in a more positive way - by adapting their product range to meet the criticisms. To the outside world it looks very much as though both sides, having exchanged heated words, are now having to eat them.

Qualcast, champion of the traditional cylinder mower, which started the lawnmower war in 1980 with its aggressive slogan "It's a lot less bover than a hover", now sells rotaries alongside its cylinders. Flymo, the inventor of the hover, which once claimed that leaving clippings on the lawn was good for the grass, is selling hovers that collect the grass.

Now the blade has come full circle. With Easter week marking the start of the new mowing season for Britain's 15 million lawns, Flymo has announced it is to attack Qualcast in its most sacred area - the traditional striped finish. Having once dismissed stripes as unimportant, claiming that most people wanted ease rather than an immaculate finish, Flymo in this season

launching a rotary mower that produces stripes.

Flymo's marketing director Geoff Harrop recognizes the apparent contradiction. "We conduct market research each year to find out what the customer regards as the most important features when choosing a lawnmower, and year after year the key features are ease, lightness and speed", he says.

"A good finish comes well down the list. Nevertheless, we recognize that there is a section of the market that wants stripes and what they stand for - a good cut - so we have developed a rotary mower that provides that.

The new model is called the Chevron and the stripes are produced by a roller at the back. Even with the cylinder mowers, it's only the roller that gives you the stripe, pushing the grass one way and then the other," says Harrop.

The Chevron is a wheeled rotary mower. In effect it is a first cousin to the hover with its single blade that spins round parallel to the ground, like a helicopter rotor. But unlike the hover it is supported by wheels rather than a cushion of air. The cylinder mower, of which Qualcast's Concorde and Suffolk Punch models are the best known, is the traditional lawnmower: its blades rotate in the direction the mower is being pushed, cutting the grass against another blade, like a pair of scissors.

Last year, the hovers - or air cushion rotaries - accounted for 43.5 per cent of the 1.3 million powered mowers sold in Britain, according to figures from Flymo. Cylinders took 29.9 per cent and wheeled rotaries 26.6.

This year Flymo is not merely collecting the cuttings (with the Spiritmaster, which really does "Hoover" up the grass) but also offers stripes. Flymo is promoting both benefits this month in a campaign drawn up by its new advertising agency, Saatchi & Saatchi. The new commercial uses speeded up film and the Dick Barton music with Frank Muir uttering the new copyline "Why slow down when you can Flymo?"

It is not a knocking campaign, however. "We think we've got enough to say about our products, without any need for knocking",



Harrop says. "We don't believe we've promoted our grass-collecting hovers strongly enough yet, and we mean to put that right this year."

Not surprisingly, Qualcast is quick to pour scorn on Flymo's change of tack. "You can draw your own conclusions as to who has been proved right", John Copper, their marketing director, says.

"Five years ago, they said you didn't need to collect the grass because it formed a mulch that was good for the lawn. Now they're offering stripes - the emotional tide is running in our favour."

Nevertheless, the fact that Flymo has set out to meet its critics makes life considerably harder for Qualcast. It has had to move away from its "lot less

bover" approach and turned its attention to safety, introducing a range of rotary mowers with plastic blades (it calls them "orbital"), which will not cut through a shoe or a power cable.

Flymo has responded by offering a choice of metal or plastic blades with its hover mowers, maintaining it is the only company offering grass collection and a plastic blade in the same mower. Qualcast replies that safety should not be a bolt-on extra, and this year its advertising is once again focusing on safety.

Despite the confusion caused by the battle and its apparently trivial nature, which has tended to obscure the fact that millions of pounds and thousands of jobs are involved, many would

argue that it is the customer who has been the major beneficiary of the lawnmower war.

"The competitive nature of the market has benefited the consumer because we have had to look at making our products better and more cheaply", Harrop says.

"We have had to find out what people really want from a lawnmower and then develop a product that meets those requirements."

Having said that, both Flymo and Qualcast admit that for all the millions they have invested in new products and advertising over the past six years, one outside factor has had far more of an influence on lawnmower sales than all their efforts put together - the weather.

Last year's warm, wet summer boosted sales by more than 15 per cent.

£100 MILLION BATTLE FOR THE BACK GARDEN

What is described as the world's first "three in one lawncare machine" is to be launched this month by Britain's biggest lawn mower firm, Birmid Qualcast, which claims to have sold over half of the country's domestic mowers last year.

Qualcast has developed a lawn trimming attachment for its Concorde REX cylinder mower which, in conjunction with its existing kit for converting the Concorde into a powered lawn rake, makes it the first mower to offer three separate functions.

The gardening equivalent of a food processor, it is

the latest development in the mower manufacturers' bid to market the garden as an outdoor extension of the house - a bid that goes back 20 years to the days when Flymo, a subsidiary of the Swedish Electrolux group, came up with the concept of "Hoovering" the lawn with a hovermower.

Qualcast is this year promoting the garden as "The outdoor lounge". Flymo prefers to describe it as "An extension of the living room". Either way we are expected to spend some £750 million on furnishing and fittings this year, of which £100 million will be spent on lawnmowers.

Laws without frontiers

The European Court of Justice is proving to be a powerful force in changing the way Britain's legal life is run

As the Council of Ministers in Brussels issues an ever increasing stream of laws and directives regulating our daily lives, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg is stepping out of the supporting cast of EEC institutions and into the limelight - most recently with the successful case brought by Helen Marshall on the raising of the retirement age for women in Britain.

It does so perhaps a little reluctantly, given its workload, but with the confidence that comes from taking awkward decisions about power in the EEC and the rights of both individual citizens and nation states.

The 13 judges who have the task of forcing European governments to change their ways look far from daunted by their role. They sit inside a modernistic concrete building in a bleak park of futuristic Euro-complexes high on a hill above the cobbles and gables of the tiny Grand Duchy's capital. The modern setting is appropriate: the European Court is shaping the Europe of the future.

The Luxembourg court is not to be confused with the European Human Rights court in Strasbourg. The job of the Court of Justice is to protect and interpret the Treaty of Rome, the EEC's founding document, and subsequent amendments.

The process is slow, written proceedings are followed by oral hearings, after which one of the six advocate generals gives an opinion. Months later comes the verdict, which usually follows the view of the advocate general, a figure drawn from French legal tradition.

A number of key figures at the court are British, and several recent dramatic cases have involved Britain. Most cases brought to Luxembourg are either referrals from national courts, where a point of EEC law is at issue (as in the case of Miss Marshall), or direct actions brought by the commission, sometimes on behalf of individuals.

The court cannot fine or imprison entire governments, but in practice all EEC governments accept the Luxembourg verdict and alter their own laws. EEC law has primacy over national law. Retirement age apart, recent prominent cases have included Britain's case against the European parliament over the budget, barriers on the Continent against British insurance companies, and Stanley Adams's successful fight against the pharmaceuticals giant Hoffman La Roche.

Most issues have to do with the creation of a Europe without frontiers or internal trade barriers, a process boosted by recent EEC reforms. Britain inherits the re-

form process in July when it takes over the EEC presidency for six months. Britain's high profile at the court might be seen as a potential problem for Lord MacKenzie Stuart, the president of the court and a Scottish high court judge, and for Sir Gordon Slynn, the senior advocate general, a high court judge (Queen's Bench) and former president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Lord MacKenzie Stuart ruled in Britain's favour last month over the EEC budget dispute, and Sir Gordon gave an opinion beneficial to Britain in the insurance case. But both men - and the registrar, Paul Hein, who is also British - stress that national interests take second place to European interests.

"If a British interest is at stake I always double check to make sure I am being dispassionate", Sir Gordon says. "The court needs all its wisdom and authority to meet the demands made on it as EEC law grows more complex. Last year 433 new cases arrived at Luxembourg, compared with an average of 300 in previous years. The last EEC summit proposed a new court of first instance to sift cases, but this would add to the costs as well as slowing things down even further."



Helen Marshall: Breaking the retirement age barrier

As Sir Gordon Slynn observes, the EEC has to accept that Lord Denning was right to speak some years ago of the "incoming tide of EEC legislation". "Denning also said rightly that we must learn to be amphibious. EEC law, after all, is what governs the lives of all of us in Europe."

When the court resumes later this month after the Easter recess, it will have to rule whether Air France and other airlines have the right to fix fares and routes, or whether the controversial Treaty rulings on free competition. The case, which could open the way to American-style de-regulation, will reveal to what extent British companies are aware of the importance of EEC law and its growing impact on Britain. In the recent insurance case at least half a dozen German companies sat in on the hearings, but not one British insurance company came to hear Sir Gordon Slynn's judgement.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES
SATURDAY
The weekend starts here

A winning tale

"In the hour before the race I had a cup of tea and tried to compose myself. I was sweating freely from the nerves and the tension, soaking wet. The chances of getting round are slim enough, so winning it is unreal. I'm just thinking about negotiating all those fences, going into the land of the unknown..." Jockey Hywell Davies tells the gripping story of how he won last year's Grand National on Last Suspect, a horse the racing tipsters said stood no chance and the bookies rated at 66 to 1

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An Aquino for Pakistan?

Benazir Bhutto's return to Pakistan next week will test General Zia's vaunted commitment to democracy to the limit

Is Benazir Bhutto about to become the Corazon Aquino of Pakistan? Like Aquino she aims to use "people power" to restore full democracy to a country just beginning to emerge from eight and a half years of martial law. Many believe she will succeed.

Early on Thursday morning Miss Bhutto, 32-year-old daughter of the executed former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, will make a triumphal return to Pakistan from exile in Britain. Shortly after her arrival in Lahore she plans to address a mass rally which is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of her supporters. This will be the first step in a campaign to force President Zia al-Huq to hold an early general election (well before the one planned to take place in 1990) which Miss Bhutto is confident her Pakistan People's Party would win by a landslide.

Miss Bhutto, looking cool and relaxed in her aunt's London flat despite hectic last-minute preparations for her return, is full of admiration for Mrs. Aquino. "She showed tremendous tenacity, sagacity, courage and intelligence. She handled the situation very well. I hope I will also be able to do the same in Pakistan."

Unlike Mrs. Aquino, who became politically involved only after the murder of her husband three years ago, Miss Bhutto learnt her politics at her father's knee and went on to read politics at Oxford and Harvard. Her father's execution in 1979 forced her to take on his political mantle, and although she has spent most of the time since then in detention, under house arrest or in exile, she is recognized as the only opposition leader in Pakistan capable of defeating the present government in a free election.

Her father's execution, on questionable evidence of conspiracy to murder, remains a motivating force behind Miss Bhutto's determination to lead the PPP to an electoral

display again. A recent party rally attracted over 100,000 people.

Although she is only half his age, Zia faces a formidable opponent in Miss Bhutto. She is not just the daughter of a popular prime minister, but has considerable political and oratorical skills of her own. Furthermore she is untainted by any association with a regime whose rigid Islamization policies have become increasingly unpopular.

"Besides", Miss Bhutto wryly observes, "1986 is proving a bad year for dictators. I just hope that President Zia sees the writing on the wall and agrees to move aside gracefully."

Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

Triumphant: Benazir Bhutto

"Zia says there is now democracy in Pakistan. I say, let's prove it", Miss Bhutto says. "I believe we could restore full democracy so long as the present government allows full political activity and free elections."

She denies she is seeking a confrontation with the government. "We don't want agitation or a breakdown of law and order - Above all we want to avoid a situation that would prompt the army to

seize power again. All we want is to be able to hold public meetings peacefully."

When President Zia declared "non-party" elections last year as part of a gradual phase-out of martial law, Miss Bhutto called for a boycott because she suspected - rightly, as it turned out - that the new government would have severely limited powers. She remains deeply sceptical of President Zia's motives, particularly as there are still restrictions on political parties.

The ban on the PPP has been lifted since the party agreed in February to submit its accounts for inspection. However the party has refused to register, as it is supposed to do if it wants to contest an election, because the small print of the electoral allows the electoral commissioner (a Zia appointee) to ban a political party at any time and arrest its leaders without right of appeal.

"This means that on the eve of an election he could just apply the axe to us", she says. The PPP is challenging the registration restrictions in the courts.

Miss Bhutto is clearly taking a risk in returning to Pakistan. When she went back last year to attend her brother's funeral she was put under house arrest for three months on grounds of "national security". President Zia has said that no restrictions will be placed on her this time - although there is little reason to believe he will keep his word if he feels she is becoming a serious challenge to his authority.

Despite years of repression, the PPP still has widespread support around the country. When martial law was lifted in January, PPP flags and photographs of the former prime minister immediately went on

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 916

ACROSS

- 1 Nape (6)
- 5 Interrupt speaker (6)
- 8 Epoch (3)
- 9 Sensual (6)
- 10 Empty (6)
- 11 Hind part (4)
- 12 Noun, musical hymn (8)
- 14 Largest Alpine lake (6)
- 17 Expressed (6)
- 19 Indirect reference (8)
- 22 Small whirlpool (4)
- 24 Cruel (6)
- 25 RC conscience study (6)
- 26 Aural organ (3)
- 27 Native carrier (6)
- 28 Join up (6)

DOWN

- 2 Irate (5)
- 3 Lose confidence (7)
- 4 Arab sail-boat (7)
- 5 Sanctuary (5)
- 6 Spicy desert plants (3)
- 7 Nail half-moons (7)
- 13 Gravity (3)
- 15 Make bigger (7)
- 16 Power (3)
- 17 Genuine (7)
- 18 Including everything (7)
- 20 Associate (5)
- 21 Layabout (5)
- 23 Cloth (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 915

ACROSS: 8 Indiscernible 9 Too 10 Recognise 11 Panna 13 Nest 16 Deplete 19 Gazer 22 Remission 24 Cot 25 Decomposition

DOWN: 1 Tiptop 2 Adroit 3 Extrange 4 Deacon 5 Sneeze 6 Oblige 7 Behest 12 Age 14 Gigantic 15 Con 16 Deride 17 Puncture 18 Editor 20 Urchin 21 Totany 23 Some

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Alone in the home

Should parents who leave their young children unattended be prosecuted? Heather Kirby investigates a legal loophole

The scene: a coroner's court. Inside, an inquest into the deaths of children killed in a fire at their home where they had been left on their own. Outside, a crowd of women wait to scream abuse at the mother and father or lone parent they consider to blame for the tragedy. What happens next as far as the law is concerned is usually - nothing.

Academics and lawyers say the legal position of parents who leave their children at home alone is uncertain. "Abandonment" or "wilful neglect" has to be proved before either a care order or a criminal conviction, so parents who nip to the supermarket or even the pub are doing nothing illegal by leaving their children alone. While there is an army of specialists trying to protect children from all kinds of cruelty, there is precious little being done to guard them against careless or irresponsible parents.

At a recent seminar on child abuse, the child care law was described by a county council social services director as a "labyrinthine maze". Currently the DHSS is collecting hundreds of recommendations for a comprehensive child care law review after a consultation document last October. Mr Dennis Walters, MP, is sponsoring a private member's Bill which he hopes will clarify the complex care order procedures; there are present more than 20 different routes for taking children into care.

At the same time, the Lord Chancellor is conducting a feasibility study into family courts, which will take over responsibility for neglect cases. Nowhere, however, is any attempt being made to lay down the law about the problem of unsupervised children and parental responsibility.

Michael Freeman, professor of English Law at University College, London, said: "The law is very hazy; there are really only rules of thumb because the law finds it very difficult to cope with omission. If a child were abandoned in a place where it was bound to be found, like a bus shelter, that would not prove neglect. And where a technical offence is committed, there is no point in prosecuting. Gormless parents have to be acquitted anyway and the maximum sentence is only two years so nothing can be achieved."

Leaving children alone regularly could be construed as



Wendy Hoyle

neglect, and the NSPCC received 2,431 referrals of such cases between October 1983 and September 1984. "We find that a warning to the parents is normally enough, and if it continues we take action, such as a care order," said a spokesman. "But we could never push for a law because there are so many ifs and buts which would have to be built into it. For instance, what is the time factor? What is the age factor?"

Proof that there is widespread confusion over the question is borne out by the Law Society, which gets a regular stream of inquiries from estranged spouses convinced the partner with custody is neglecting his or her parental responsibilities.

Children of eight or nine are out till 11 at night

"But leaving the children on their own is not an offence per se," said Valerie Cooney, of the Law Society. "According to the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, anyone who exposes the life of a child to injury or permanent damage to his health would be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to up to five years' jail. The Children and Young Persons Act, 1953, says that any person aged 16 or over who has the custody of a child and wilfully abandons it, causing unnecessary suffering or injury to health, is liable to a two-year prison sentence."

In 1983, 115 children aged under 14 died in fires at their homes and 1,319 were injured, but it is not known how many were on their own at the time. Nor are there figures for other tragedies, like Leonie Keating who was abducted and murdered while she was unattended.

Of course, there can be no measure of the amount of psychological and emotional damage done to children left alone, especially at night. Although experts argue there is no point prosecuting parents after the event, that they have been punished enough if their children are harmed, there is not much justice in the argument from the children's point of view.

Having a strict law that no child under the age of 14, could be left alone in a house, would not be the opinion of Jill Knight, MP, chairman of the all-party family and child protection group, their parents from doing so. "You see children of eight or nine out until 11 at night, which is a form of neglect as serious as leaving them alone, but there is a blatant lack of caring. It is totally against nature."

"I question the belief that a mother whose children die when she is out has suffered enough. Is it the case that she is suffering? It is uncaring to leave her children regularly anyway. A woman who is prepared to knock a kid off before it is born is liable not to bother that much about one when it is."

most of the responsibility for the safety of their children - is of little help to the police, who have to decide whether or not to prosecute on all the evidence available. But a spokesman did agree that a law would not necessarily be a deterrent. "We have laws to prevent burglary, but they are on the increase," he pointed out. "I think a better awareness of the dangers would be more useful."

'We aim to improve the home not punish the parent'

Judith Brit, an advice worker for Gingerbread, is one of many who think the problem is social rather than legal. "We are more concerned with improving the home situation than punishing parents," she said. Some recent tragedies have involved single mothers, although during the teachers' strike incidents of children being left alone must have increased considerably.

Parents with money can buy themselves out of the difficulty, but for the less well-off it can be a nightmare. For lone parents, 47 per cent of whom live on the bread line, a night out is a luxury; if they want an evening out, the only option is to take a risk. No union would stand for their 24-hour day, seven-days-a-week regime. A similarly crushing burden is felt - again mostly by women - by people who have to look after elderly relatives.

In an age of preventive medicine, it seems there is a gap in the market. Even the Church of England, in its Faith in the City report, neglected the problem. No one, for example, suggested setting up teams of volunteer minders to help the people who desperately need a few hours a week respite.

Child care law has always been about maintaining a delicate balance between the rights of children and the role of the family, with the need for state intervention to be clearly justified. One of the principal recommendations made by Mr Lewis Blom-Cooper in his report on the Jasmine Beckford case was that social workers should receive more training to deal with children at risk. Carers are hoping that cash will be found to follow his guidelines.

What no one ever seems to talk about is training for prospective parents. A child might wish that to be the starting point.

Everything you wanted to know about birth control

Patients' questions about contraception are so legion and their problems so diverse, that some may stamp the non-specialist doctor. Typical of the questions recently asked in a gynaecology clinic was: "Should I discontinue the Pill before I have a laparoscopy?"

The definitive answer is that this is unnecessary as the incidence of deep vein thrombosis is negligible after this minor procedure. But a woman due to have her varicose veins dealt with should stop the Pill for at least a month before having varicose veins operated on or injected and resume taking them only after the leg is unbandaged.

A man asked: "Why can even comparatively few sperm even after vasectomy result in a pregnancy whereas a man with a similar sperm count in other circumstances would be considered infertile?"

The answer is that a low sperm count usually indicates faulty spermatogenesis, signifying that not only are they few in number, but also of very poor quality. After vasectomy the sperm, although progressively diminishing in quantity, are of normal quality and capable of fertilization.

These questions, and 797 others, are tackled in a concisely written book, *Contraception, Your Questions Answered*, by Dr John Guilleband, a London gynaecologist and medical director of the Margaret Pyke Centre.

One question deliberately left unasked is whether the one asked more frequently than any other: "Will the Pill cause breast cancer in young women?"

Dr Guilleband concludes that the data on the use of the Pill for women in general is uniformly reassuring, but he intends to wait for the result, expected at the end of the year, of the large Oxford study comparing 800 cancer victims under 35 with matched controls before committing himself to the absolute safety of the Pill in very young women.

Meanwhile young women can take comfort from the results of an eight-centre study in North America from Georgia, Atlanta. In this project, when 2,083 women under 45 who had developed cancer of the breast were compared with a similar con-

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Some people will be blindsided by as little as two teaspoonfuls of 40 per cent methylated spirits; others will suffer no more than an upset stomach after drinking several pints.

Guests of a dinner party host who has failed to follow the DHSS advice - to discard all Italian wine bottled by Vincenzo Odore or any cheap Italian table wine recently brought back by travellers which was perhaps purchased in a small grocer's store (rather than a proper dry free shop) - may find that 18 to 24 hours after a jolly evening's drinking their tender eyeballs develop an intense burning pain made worse by exposure to light.

Finger injuries

The accident to The Prince of Wales's finger has spotlighted injuries of this kind. As the blood and nerve supply to a finger runs along both sides of the bone, a crushing blow is unlikely to result in the loss of the finger unless it was delivered with such force that the arteries were completely destroyed.

A quick glance round a group of farmworkers will show that while many have lost fingers, or parts of them, the injuries are usually consistent with farm machinery accidents in which the arteries and nerves have been severed.

Nailbeds are frequently damaged by a heavy blow; recovery is not always complete and thereafter the nail may be irregular. It is difficult to assess the degree of recovery which will take place until a new nail has grown.

Blind drunk

When comparing the addition of methyl alcohol (methylated spirits) to Italian wines, the earlier action in Austria of adding ethylene glycol (antifreeze) to their table wine in sweetening, seems comparatively benign.

Whereas ethylene glycol in the low concentration found in a bottle of adulterated wine would be dangerous only if drunk in huge quantities, even small amounts of methanol, in susceptible people, cause lasting damage to the nervous system including irreversible blindness from destruction of the optic nerve.

As it is reported that some of the Italian wine was contaminated by 10 per cent

methylated spirits it is not surprising that the death rate has reached double figures and many more are in a coma.

Some people will be blindsided by as little as two teaspoonfuls of 40 per cent methylated spirits; others will suffer no more than an upset stomach after drinking several pints.

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Doctor in trouble

In the past general practitioners often spent time drinking copious cups of tea or coffee with their patients as they discussed their worries.

They would chat over a cuppa with the grandparent and aunts who intended to help with the confinement and surreptitiously assess the strengths and weaknesses of the household into which the baby was going to be born.

If the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is to be believed, the doctors were encouraging their patients in an undesirable, possibly even harmful - habit for a recent research project in Connecticut has shown that moderate to heavy users of caffeine containing drinks (tea and coffee and, being an American study, Coca-Cola too) are more likely to have late miscarriages.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The girl in the picture

Helena Bonham Carter, who stars in two films this year, owes her big break to a photograph in a society magazine

When Helena Bonham Carter was 14 she found an agent. She was not particularly interested in acting, but everybody in her gang at South Hampstead High School for Girls had one. Helena was the last person anybody expected to act since she was famously shy, but this year she will be seen in two films. She plays Lucy Honeychurch in the Merchant/Ivory production of E.M. Forster's *A Room With A View*, and Lady Jane Grey in Trevor Nunn's first film, *Lady Jane*, chosen for the Royal Charity Premiere in aid of the Prince's Trust on May 29.

In time-worn movie star tradition, Helena's face launched her career. Trevor Nunn saw a picture of her in *Tatler* magazine, dressed in Pre-Raphaelite mode, valved and palely loitering. He was about to cast the role of Lady Jane and eventually, unable to find anyone to bear that image, he telephoned her while she was staying with a friend in Florence. "I thought that was rather flashy," she recalls with a self-smocking smile, "so I went to see him. There was a lengthy auditioning process. My looks were suitable but he did need to verify, extremely thoroughly, that I could act."



Shy girl made good: Helena Bonham Carter

Lucy, the pivot of his and Ismail Merchant's highly evocative and faithfully adapted *A Room With A View*, is a spirited Edwardian miss, brought up among the conventions of stockbroker-belt England. It takes a trip to Italy, where she is exposed to all manner of unsettling and un-British goings-on, to activate an internal battle between her expectations and emotions.

Ivory's first reaction was that Helena looked too young for the part. "He had seen me as Lady Jane, who is 16, while Lucy is meant to be 20," she explains. "Nowadays there are so many of you that they cast you for what you actually are, not necessarily for your acting ability."

The day she finished filming *Lady Jane*, Helena met James Ivory, who was hunting for his perfect Lucy. Honeychurch.

small waist that has been exposed by period dress. Nothing to do with her, she says, it's all the work of the wardrobe. "You can fully understand why females have been so fickle over the last centuries. You can barely breathe. You can barely eat. All you can do is sit still and look wonderful."

Another vivid impression of filming was the endless waiting. "I realized quickly that you couldn't afford to become involved in a book as you never knew when you would be needed. Old pros like Maggie Smith do crosswords or embroidery."

Now she's waiting again - this time for both films to be released here. The American publicity caravan has taught her a little about what is ahead and she's not sure how much she likes it. "Why, as an actress, are you expected to have anything of interest to say? There is, of course, the problem of being misquoted, but worse," she says with one of those laughs, "of not being misquoted and making a complete idiot of yourself."

Equally tiresome to her is the litany of her lineage, great-granddaughter of Herbert Asquith, grand-daughter of Violet Bonham Carter. "It makes me sound like a Crufts winner and also encourages typecasting. It doesn't take being upper-class to phone up an agent at 14. You just send in a photograph of yourself - and your vital statistics."

Alexandra Shulman
A Room With A View (PG) opens on April 11 at the Curzon Mayfair (01-489 3787). *Lady Jane* opens to the public at the ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, London (01-838 3279) on May 30.

Family Week 6th to 12th April.



Family Week is a special time for The Children's Society. It's a week when thousands of our supporters not only raise money, but show the entire country just how The Children's Society helps those in need. Every year over 10,000 children and families benefit from our work. For every child we help, however, there are many we can't.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Steel's secrets

A classified Nato document has come into the hands of Liberal leader David Steel after being picked up from the hall table of a hotel in Newquay. It gives details of a Nato exercise off the Cornish coast between March 18 and 20 involving the RAF, the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the US Navy and Marine Corps. The document was found by a Liberal supporter whose accompanying letter to Steel contains some acid comments on Nato security. Steel, who has been out of the country, is expected to raise the matter with the Defence Secretary, George Younger, today. An MoD spokesman said there would be an immediate inquiry. He expressed surprise that the document had been sent to Steel instead of being handed in to the police.

What's my line?

There is now a variation on the cabbie's cry: "Guess who I had in the back of my taxi." It is: "Guess who was driving." Fred Housego, who became famous after winning *Mastermind* but was dropped from his regular Friday night slot on London Weekend Television at Christmas, is back driving a cab. Housego, a Labour supporter, has not lost his gift of the gab and at union meetings is a vociferous supporter of the drivers' case against Heathrow's 50p taxi levy. Philosophical about his fall from fame, he admits he would return to the screen like a shot if asked: "I'm as greedy as anybody else. TV pays in 20 minutes what most of us earn in a week."

Waiting for Ego

We are about to be engaged in celebrations marking Samuel Beckett's 80th birthday on April 13. Faber are publishing a special edition of his plays on that day. BBC's *Bookmark* is devoting an edition to him. *Books and Bookmen* is granting him the cover story and the national qualities are planning major features. So whatever happens do not tell anybody that his birthday is not this month at all but on *May 13*. He pretends it is a month earlier because that would mean he was born on a Good Friday that fell on the 13th. Ho-ho, very absurd.

Nothing like it

Ken Thompson, chief press officer for Channel 4, rang the *Daily Telegraph* information service the other day to ask if Iris Murdoch, to whom he was writing, had been made a dame. "She was born in Dublin of Anglo-Irish parents, came the reply. "That's interesting, but is she a dame?" repeated Thompson. "A dame! I thought you wanted to know if she was Danish."

BARRY FANTONI



"Poor devil, only yesterday he was running an oil company"

Falling for it

We were almost treated to the spectacle of Miriam Stoppard interviewing pregnant men on Yorkshire Television's *Where There's Life* after an April Fool joke in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Its article about three men in Minnesota who were expecting test tube babies later this month appeared under the byline Lori Fopal - an anagram of April Fool, and was just one of a series of giveaway jokes. Yesterday morning, a week after the magazine came out, programme researcher Mark Seagar rang to ask for further details. "Some bizarre things happen in the States. They've made male baboons pregnant, so why not men?" he said.

Son of Zion?

An underground group of Libyan democrats, the London-based National Front for the Salvation of Libya, says it can add evidence to support reports in Israeli papers that Gadaffi's mother was Jewish. One of Gadaffi's former aides, Omar Mahasshi, who defected in 1975 and is now languishing in a Tripoli prison, has claimed that an Italian priest who had dealings in Libya during the Italian occupation wrote to Gadaffi in 1970. In his letter he said he knew of Gadaffi's Jewish blood and begged him to use his background to help bring harmony to the warring religious factions. An NFSL spokesman says: "It was the priest, apparently, who suggested that Gadaffi was the son of a Jewish lady raped by an Italian soldier in Sirte. To avoid scandal, the priest recommended that the baby boy be placed in the custody of Bunamir Gaddafedam, Gadaffi's assumed father." If the letter existed (outside Mahasshi's imagination) I hate to think what Gadaffi's reply was.

PHS

Warsaw
They were praying hard in Polish churches during Holy Week this year - harder than usual. Special masses were held throughout the country, especially in the ancient town of Gnieszno, west of Warsaw, for the return of one of the boldest and most valuable church treasures in eastern Europe, stolen by a gang of grave robbers.

The theft of the large, exquisitely etched silver mounting from the tomb of St Adalbert (also known as St Wojciech) set both the Catholic bishops and the government into a frenzy of activity. A ransom of half a million zlotys - two years' average income, but still only a small fraction of the real value of the work - was put up in the hope of attracting an informer. Top detectives were put on the case and have arrested three men and a woman. But though the police found smelting machinery in the garage of the thieves' apartment in Gdansk, the fate of the silver engraving, made by a master craftsman three centuries ago and weighing about 32 lb, is still uncertain. The prayers, and the interrogations, continue.

The furore over the theft is understandable. St Adalbert is a symbol of Poland's Christian heritage and of its early claims to statehood. Originally Bishop of Prague, Adalbert was exiled and arrived in Poland in 997; from there, with the support of the Polish evangelizing monarch Boleslaw the Bold, he started to Christianize the Prussians, who soon put him to death. Boleslaw bought the body from his killers and entombed it in Gnieszno cathedral, where it became a focus of pilgrimage and a symbol of the

Roger Boyes reports on Poland's anguish over a theft that highlights the illegal traffic in holy relics to the West

fact that Christianity came to Poland from the Slavic east rather than from the west.

Adalbert became an important factor in integrating the tribes that created the Polish state. His remains are safe, still wrapped and sealed in a metal box. But the thieves pulled off the lifesize image of the prone Adalbert and six eagles (their wings, broken and chipped, were found in the Gdansk apartment). The blow to Polish pride can be measured not only in the intensity of prayer this past week but also the anger of letters written to the authorities demanding that the thieves be executed.

Who could be behind the crime? There seem to be two possibilities: either this was a run-of-the-mill group of criminals who, not realizing the real value of the Adalbert tomb, intended to melt down the silver, or they were hired by a western collector.

This latter possibility has exposed a sordid seam in the underworlds of East and West. It is an open secret that thousands of icons have been making their way to the West. Looted from empty or unguarded churches in Russia, Belorussia, the Ukraine and Poland - one Orthodox church in eastern Poland has been stripped of 150 in six separate burglaries - the icons are smuggled to Vienna, West Berlin or Scandinavia.

There, if they are of poor quality, they are restored, retouched and sold as fashionable

interior decorations. Those that are genuinely old and attributable are sold to collectors at high prices. Now it emerges that a great deal of Catholic church art has also been making its way to western dealers and collectors.

Colonel Jan Swieczynski is the main art treasures detective in Poland, a scholarly man who studies western collectors' journals with some interest. He quotes, as an example of the cynicism of western art pirates, a specialist West German antiques journal: "The eastern (that is East Vienna, in the rundown part of Warsaw known as Praga, and all the law-abiding silver dealers throughout the country. They have come up with only a few clues. But, in any case, if the theft had been a special commission from the West, it would most likely have avoided the usual channels."

The Adalbert affair is a matter of great embarrassment to the church leadership. The million of Adalbert's arrival in Poland is approaching, a red letter day for the Catholic church in Eastern Europe, and Gnieszno is in the heart of the archdiocese of Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish primate, who was having talks with the Pope in the Vatican at the time of the theft. Perhaps the prayers and the ransom offered to the underworld will save Adalbert's silver. But the chances are slim.

Howard Davies is unconvinced by Owen's angling for Tory votes

For Iron Lady read Tin Man

David Owen has taken to heart the familiar conceit that he could be the next "Conservative" prime minister. His latest book, *A United Kingdom*, is an attempt to claim that succession.

Billed as an "argument and a challenge for a better Britain", it is clearly targeted at the wavering Conservative, and not simply at the closet social democrats in the Tory party. Owen is going for the hard core of Mrs Thatcher's support, for those who admire firm government, uncompromising stands, and economic realism - Centre Forward would be at outside left in Dr Owen's Britain.

There is nothing subtle about the approach. His version of the history of the miners' strike - demonstrating that he alone stood firm throughout against Arthur Scargill - "serves to nail the lie that only Mrs Thatcher and the Conservatives can give firm leadership". Owen and the Conservatives, we are asked to believe, would do just as well.

More artful is the exploitation of Conservative worries about industrial policy and, in particular, about the government's apparent willingness to countenance foreign takeovers in the name of privatization. While leaving his own views on Westland and BL clouded in obscurity, he articulates a common yearning - seen notably in the House of Lords select committee report on overseas trade - for a coherent industrial strategy against which individual cases can be judged.

The attitude of Tory backbenchers to the projected BL deals with Ford and GM revealed high anxiety about the government's intentions. Why, they asked, did the government not play the patriotic card - a joker assumed to be dealt to all Conservative prime ministers.

The target is well chosen. But does he hit it? Does Owen have anything to offer the mainstream Tory voter who shares these concerns? On the evidence of *A*

United Kingdom the answer must be no. It is an unconvincing agenda, long on analysis and short on practical policies.

He tries to anticipate this line of attack. For him, "the specific measures are nowhere near as important as the underlying analysis. If we could only obtain a greater consensus on the need for more private investment, how this can be achieved would become a more technical than political question."

This cavalier dismissal of most political and economic controversy this century as mere "technical questions" which Wright or some other maul in the Treasury can settle is more silly than dangerous. But the "underlying analysis" is more seriously flawed.

His doomsday chapter entitled *National Decline* is not helped by some elementary errors of fact. We learn, for example, that the standard of living in Puerto Rico and Taiwan is "almost on a par with ours". Yet the World Bank reports our GDP per head is just over \$9,000, with Puerto Rico and Taiwan at around \$2,500.

His macro-economic arguments are also flawed. They are based on the premise that a consumer boom is in prospect at the expense of industrial investment and growth. Yet the events of the past three months, with a collapse of the oil price and falling interest and exchange rates, create the most favourable climate for industry for many years. Investment and exports, it is generally forecast, will grow more rapidly than consumer spending.

The errors are, however, less important than the shape which emerges of the SDP approach to the economy. In many areas it would differ little, if at all, from this government's strategy. Though Owen tries to claim that employee share schemes and wider share ownership more generally are Alliance inventions, elsewhere even he acknowledges



Owen: an unconvincing agenda, long on analysis but short on practical policies

that significant progress has been made under Mrs Thatcher. Owen wants a participative industrial democracy. Conservatives call it popular capitalism. Here we are in the realism of broad marketing - of distinction without difference.

But there is another side to his coin: an interventionist impulse which translates into income policy, massive increases in regional aid, huge export subventions, and the other paraphernalia of corporatism and protection.

Income policy is the centrepiece. But precisely which form Owen would adopt is unclear. He canvasses a range of foreign exemplars, an inflation tax linked to profit sharing, a quite different "payroll incentive" for companies which increase their labour force, and, for the public sector, a complex comparability scheme which puts the Clegg pay awards in the shade. Nor does he advance any plausible

Boom town denied the chance to grow

Cambridge is Thatcher country. She has pinned her hopes for economic recovery on small business, high technology and sunrise industry. In most of a Britain still dominated by the declining industries of an earlier era there are few signs of such life. In Cambridge her vision unfolds.

A year ago there were no fewer than 350 small high-technology businesses in the city, increasing by between 30 and 40 a year, involved in electronics, telecommunications, scientific instruments, bio-technology and computing. The firms are not mere branches of multinationals and despite their small size and youth - more than half were established during the past 10 years - they account for nearly 20 per cent of employment in the Cambridge area. Extrapolating their present birth and survival rates, employment can be expected to grow rapidly.

Cambridge is, in short, rather like Victorian Manchester. It displays all the characteristics of a booming entrepreneurial economy. And what has made it grow is simple: the raw material necessary for high technology industry is brainpower, and Cambridge University is a leading scientific centre.

But the mere availability of academic excellence cannot explain the boom in enterprise; after all, the academics could just as easily spend their time pursuing arcane research projects within the university's laboratories. A recent study by Segal, Quince and Partners shows that this university, has created, partly by accident, an environment that facilitates contact with industry. Faculty mem-



Cambridge: cloistered calm that has spawned a proliferation of high-tech industries - but now held back by planning restrictions

bers can enter business yet retain their posts and university salaries, so minimizing the risks involved.

Cambridge University has traditionally had a variety of loose and flexible contractual relationships with its staff, with less attention than is usually paid to formal job descriptions. They have been comparatively free to decide how they spend their time and whether to engage in outside work. In applied sciences especially there is a natural presumption that staff will take on consultancies and other outside employment.

All this has helped create in Cambridge a university network of business and social contacts so strong that a study of company histories showed that the university has been the origin, directly or indirectly, of most of the new high-tech firms.

But growth is now threatened. Cambridgeshire County Council has a Structure Plan, produced in the late 1970s, and approved by the Environment Secretary in 1980, dictating that Cambridge shall not boom. It is identified, to use the planners' jargon, as an area of policy restraint on population growth. That means that present plans will not meet the full demand for housing in the city.

Following the principles of a plan for Cambridge written in 1950 by William Holford, the County Council wishes to protect the city's physical setting; it wants to preserve long-distance views of the city and countryside beyond. In line with this, it is seeking a further extension of the green belt around the city. The Structure Plan, as revised, will release 150 acres of land on the city's out-

skirts. But meanwhile the green belt is to be extended and development on it will be prevented until the year 2000 at least.

The city says there is probably enough land for new roads and houses if the present rate of house construction continues. But if it increases the planners admit that the land supply will be insufficient. Whether there is enough land to accommodate the expected increase in the city's population is unclear.

The results of such planning are evident. There is a shortage of suitable scientific and computer staff in Cambridge. With the price of a three-bedroom terrace house now between £65,000 and £100,000, that is not surprising. As things stand an unemployed technologist living in the north, able to raise £35,000 from his existing home, would need to find an additional £30,000 to £55,000 to move to Cambridge. Even if he decided to postpone his move, the situation is unlikely to improve.

According to the House Builders' Federation, the extension of the green belt will mean that all available land for new building will be used up within three years.

The arguments for protecting the environment in Cambridge are strong. Equally powerful are the arguments for allowing the city to grow. We cannot afford to hold back the Cambridge effect. What would have become of us in the 19th century if our ancestors had chosen to sacrifice growth for conservation in Manchester, Birmingham or Leeds?

rials - loose talk in a bar - and retrieved four of the paintings. But three had already been smuggled to Cologne.

The detection rate in sub-contracted burglaries is relatively high. Between 1981 and 1984 there were 2,398 thefts from churches and rectories and two out of three thieves were caught. But the retrieval of the stolen works is much more difficult, with the police recovering only about 20 per cent and then often only cheap silver awaiting treatment in illegal smelters. Sometimes the authorities turn up a stolen masterpiece by luck - a Van Dyck was once found hidden on a train to East Germany.

Detectives searching for the Adalbert treasure have done the rounds of the several known fences on the far side of the Vienna, in the rundown part of Warsaw known as Praga, and all the law-abiding silver dealers throughout the country. They have come up with only a few clues. But, in any case, if the theft had been a special commission from the West, it would most likely have avoided the usual channels.

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ible argument as to why incomes policy would work in the future any better than it has done in the past. His own belief that it would rest on one simple proposition. Incomes policy will be "underpinned" by the emergence of a new political consensus based on proportional representation". It seems that if a government is approved by a clear majority of voters its policies will be followed without question or demur.

This is not so. Opposition to incomes policy or, indeed, to trade union legislation, has not been driven by a feeling that the decisions of a government elected by a mere 44 per cent of the electorate were illegitimate but rather by the desire of particular groups to defend their short-term financial interests. The democratic purity of the single transferable vote will not change these calculations in the slightest degree.

Owen has a jejune belief in the power of government to influence economic life. In his view "the fact that Italy in 1985 surpassed the UK in its standard of living implies that the quality of Italian government is better than ours".

President Botha would be delighted to have this test applied to the continent of Africa. But most other political leaders recognize some limits to their power and influence over the economy.

Changing attitudes within British industry is a long-term process. It can be assisted only by a government prepared to work with the grain of the market, not against it. In the past five years we have returned to a growth path that matches or exceeds that of our main competitors. David Owen's interventionism, founded on a mysterious political alchemy, would put into reverse the beneficial adjustments that have already been made.

The author, now with McKinsey and Co, was until recently special adviser to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A *United Kingdom* is published by Penguin (£2.95).

David Watt
Clouding the basic issue

Most comment on the Soviet call for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty - and its rejection by President Reagan - has been made in the context of East-West diplomacy and propaganda. Will the row wreck the Washington summit? Will Moscow score points in the battle for European public opinion? These are important questions, but they overshadow the substance.

Is an agreed end to underground testing, together with a stronger prohibition on testing in space, a realistic aim? Would it really be a dangerous restriction on the development of vital technologies, as the Americans allege? Would it actually slow down the arms race, even if the superpowers could agree on it?

This kind of question looks straightforward enough, but in fact is quite complex. Consider what ought to be a relatively simple, as well as an absolutely central one: what, today, are nuclear tests actually needed for? I have hawked this question round quite a wide range of people who are supposed to be expert, and have received an equally wide range of answers.

At one end of the spectrum are those who say that any country that wants to be taken seriously as a nuclear power needs to test. Unless you can test, they say, you are not only depriving yourself of the opportunity to make yourself more secure, you cannot even be sure that your existing stockpile of weapons is not deteriorating.

According to this thesis, testing is inseparable from possessing nuclear weapons; until you abolish the latter it is preposterous to try to abolish the former.

On the other wing are those who maintain that today so much is known about nuclear weapons that nobody needs to test. The superpower stockpiles are so immense that such marginal deterioration as cannot routinely be detected and repaired is easily sustainable. The state of the nuclear armourer's art is now so advanced in the US and the USSR that almost any form of nuclear weapon which can be conceived on the drawing board can be manufactured with an acceptable degree of certainty that it will function properly without having to be tested. Israel, which almost certainly possesses nuclear weapons, has never tested one.

Between these poles of opinion - scientific and military on both sides - it is impossible for the layman (including most commentators and politicians) to adjudicate. The military and the defence scientists want to be certain of their weapons and it is a natural human desire, if one has toys, to play with them. On the other hand, the arms control enthusiasts in the scientific community are bound to underestimate the technical uncertainties. And without technical expertise how are decision-makers to say whose bias is the greater?

The answer is that most politicians believe in particular experts who tell them what fits in with their policies. The British political debate on this issue is bedevilled by such uncertainties. Admittedly Labour's position on nuclear testing is at least logically consistent since, if Britain has no

nuclear weapons, as Labour intends, there is no need to test them. But Mrs Thatcher is in a quandary. When she first came to power in 1979 she reviewed the situation in the light of her nationalistic instincts and wrote an advisory memorandum making clear that she believed the military arguments for testing and was totally opposed to a comprehensive test ban.

Unfortunately this was at odds with past British policy, especially the Foreign Office view, which had been rather in favour. The result has been a characteristically hypocritical British compromise whereby the reality - that Prime Minister intends never to sign a comprehensive treaty - is fudged in public by the pretence that what she cannot stomach is that the Russians will not agree to proper verification. If the verification problem is solved, is one day it might be, she will be in a pickle.

Similarly David Owen, a long-standing advocate of a comprehensive ban, chooses to believe those scientists who tell him that the SDP's policy of developing a British sea-launched cruise missile as an alternative to Trident (possibly in collaboration with the French) could be achieved without testing. He, and they, may be right; but so may the experts who say it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to devise or adapt a suitable warhead for this relatively untried purpose and be sure it worked - that is, without trying it out.

The answer, perhaps, is to focus at the thing another way and consider the most extreme consequences for good or evil that might flow from a treaty. The pluses would be some further improvement in the East-West climate, and possibly a mild, though not a radical, restraint on non-nuclear powers such as India and Pakistan from pursuing their nuclear weapons development.

On the other hand the arms controllers are debarred from believing a treaty would make more than a marginal difference to the superpower arms race. For if, as they argue, testing is superfluous, then the chances are that the superpowers will calmly go on developing their weapons systems without testing.

Similarly, those keen on President Reagan's Star Wars initiative would be disappointed that under a comprehensive treaty the potentialities of the X-ray laser could not be so easily explored, but their displeasure should be tempered by two facts: (a) that the X-ray laser can be explored to a considerable extent without nuclear testing and (b) that, in any case, it probably won't work.

An extra-terrestrial arbiter might well conclude that there is a strong balance of advantage in favour of a treaty, but nuclear tests in the outer atmosphere because of danger to the global environment. But he would probably pronounce that in the case of underground tests the advantage is small and mainly symbolic. In these circumstances he would tell us not to lose too much sleep over Soviet opportunism, and US intransigence, on this issue, and to concentrate our energies and hopes on the balanced reduction of our wastefully bloated nuclear arsenals.

moreover... Miles Kington
Eyeways and byways

Richard Ingrams is leaving *Private Eye* to edit a new version of the *Shell Country Guides* - Yorkshire is already finished and Oxfordshire is being done now. But as the editorship of the *Eye* is the only job Ingrams has ever had, you will not be surprised to learn that it has heavily affected the style of the new *Shell* guides, as these extracts from the Oxfordshire work demonstrate.

Great Oxford Bore of the Past, No 86... of course, the really clever bloke at New College was the Rev Spooner, he invented the spoonerism which is when you swap the front bits of words to make a new phrase, it's really clever, his most famous one is "Kinkering Kong's titles takes", though personally I never thought that very funny, I like the one where he said that the Lord is a shoving leopard, do you get it? What he really meant to say was the Lord is a loving shepherd, another one is where he said that the cat fell off the roof and popped on its paws, instead of dropping on its paws, though I suppose it all seemed funnier when he was alive.

Cherwell Corner, on the Duke of Marlborough's victories. *Blenheim was a doddle, Ramillies was quite hard, but when he won Malplaquet, Everyone Oudenarde!*

A Doctor Writes. "Sometimes patients are referred to the suffering, what is called an Oxford education. This disease lasts about three years, sometimes four, and the normal symptoms are staying up very late, consuming vast overloads of instant coffee, talking incessantly about God, sex and politics, and a marked distaste for any kind of normal work. In severe cases it may lead to delusions of self-importance, sexual over-activity and rowing along rivers trying to fit the boat in front of you. Basically, it is just a form of retarded infantile activity and should clear up by itself. Occasionally, however, the disease lingers into adult life, where it

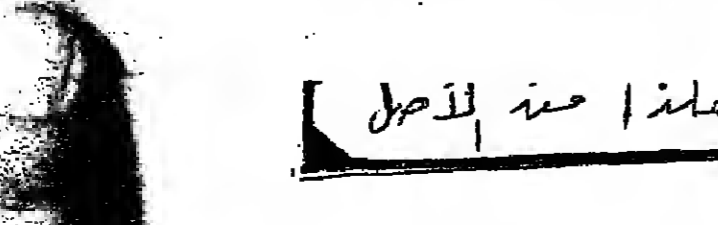
takes the form of refusing to leave Oxford (becoming a don) or persisting in editing college-type mags (running *Private Eye*). There is no cure for either form."

E.J. Thrill: Lines on the death of Maurice Bowra. So Farewell, Maurice Bowra, head of Wadhams. A curious name, Wadhams. But not as odd as Bowra. I asked Keith's mum if she knew anything about it. She said she thought that *A Morris Bowra was a car Made by Lord Nuffield. Can this be right?*

Dear Bill. I don't know if you read that I had been offered a Fellowship at All Souls, which M was furious at, seeing it as a further insult after she had been refused an honorary doctorate by the city of sweating spires. But I insisted on accepting it, seeing it as a chance to get away from the Downing Street mud-house, so the Major and I spent the day along the A40 towards Oxford. First stop, as you can guess, was the old Ragged Staff at Nuneham Stratford, where we got so memorably sloshed in 1965, do you remember Arthur doing his antics of the pond and being savaged by goldfish? After that I'm afraid, we took the wrong road and never got to Oxford, ending up instead at the Three Jolly Stockbrokers in Reading. (continued in the *Shell Guide to Berkshire*)

Apology. In the *Shell Guide to Yorkshire* we said that the Vikings had looted and desecrated the City of York, committing rape and pillage. Following a court action by the Danish government, we now recognize that there was no truth in this malicious story, and that the Vikings established a responsible and caring township. We would like to apologize to all Vikings and have agreed to pay an appropriate sum to the Danish Foreign Office.

Ian Wray
The author is a chartered town planner and economic geographer.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 4 1913

On February 19, 1913 a 7lb bomb exploded in the house of Lloyd George at Walton Heath while he was in the South of France. He was then Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), the militant leader for women's suffrage, accepted responsibility for the act. She was imprisoned in Holloway jail and went on a hunger strike. After 12 months she was released, and then re-arrested 12 times under the notorious "Cat and Mouse Act". The outbreak of war in 1914 ended suffrage agitation and prison sentences were remitted.

MRS. PANKHURST SENTENCED THREE YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE

A Disorderly Scene in Court. The trial of Mrs. Pankhurst on the charge of inciting certain persons unknown to place an explosive in a building at Walton, Surrey, with intent to destroy or damage it, was concluded at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Mrs Pankhurst, who conducted her own defence, was found guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy, and Mr Justice Lush sentenced her to three years' penal servitude. She had previously declared her intention to resist strenuously the prison treatment until she was released.

A scene of uproar followed the passing of the sentence. A number of women repeatedly shouted "Shame" and in the excitement which followed the voices of male sympathizers joined in the demonstration. There were ironical cheers, and a woman's voice struck up "For he's a jolly good fellow." Mr Justice Lush uttered an indignant protest against such behaviour and warned the demonstrators that, unless the disorder ceased, he should have the Court cleared. This rebuke, however, fell on deaf ears, and the police, amid continued uproar and the singing of the "Marseillaise", removed those responsible for the disorder. Mrs. Pankhurst, who had meanwhile stood calmly in the dock gazing up her papers, was vociferously cheered on leaving the Court for the cells. It was some time before quiet was restored, and the Judge warned those who made the demonstration that unless they desisted he should commit them to prison.

Mrs. Pankhurst's Speech. Mrs. Pankhurst said she did not desire to give evidence or call witnesses, but she addressed the jury in her defence.

She had pleaded "Not guilty" to the indictment because in it she was described as having "wickedly and maliciously incited" women to do certain acts. She was not a wicked or a malicious person—neither were any of the women who responded—if they did respond to her incitement. Therefore she felt herself justified, although she accepted responsibility for all the speeches she had made, in saying that, looking at what she had done she was not guilty of having "wickedly and maliciously incited" women to break the law. It was a very serious thing when a large number of quite respectable, ordinary, and naturally law-abiding people of upright lives came to hold the law in contempt. All good government rested on the acceptance of the law and respect for the law, and women of intelligence, training, and upright lives had for many years past ceased to respect the laws of this country.

Mrs. Pankhurst, proceeding, said that whether the sentence was long or short, she should not submit to it. The moment she left the Court—if she were sent to prison, whether to penal servitude or to a mild form of imprisonment—she would quite deliberately refuse to eat food. She would join the women in Holloway who were already on "hunger strike." She would come out of prison—dead or alive—at the earliest possible moment, and once out, as soon as she was physically fit, she would enter into the fight again. Life was very dear to them all. She did not want to commit suicide. She wanted to see the women of this country enfranchised and to live until that was done. They offered themselves as sacrifices, as their forefathers did in the past. Had the jury the right to condemn another human being to death?—because that was what it amounted to. Could they throw the first stone? Had they the right to judge women? The horrible evils ravaging civilization would never be remedied until women got the vote.

"Hunger Strike" Threatened. Mrs. Pankhurst said that whatever sentence was passed upon her she would do all that was humanely possible to terminate it at the earliest possible moment. She had no sense of guilt. She felt she was doing her duty. She would take the desperate remedy that other women had taken. The struggle would be a very unusual one, but she should make it as long as she had an inch of strength left in her. She would fight, and fight, and fight from the moment she entered the prison. She would struggle against overwhelming odds, and she would resist the doctors.

Of shoes and ships... From Mr Pat Adams. Sir, Surely A.P. Herbert said it all in his lines on the President of the Board of Trade: This high official, all allow, Is grossly overpaid. There wasn't any Board, and now There isn't any trade. Yours faithfully, PAT ADAMS, Savage Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Berkeley Square, W1. March 31.

EDUCATIONAL SABOTAGE

Which teacher organization a few years ago was condemning O Levels, and agitating for the abolition of the existing pattern of school examinations at 16-plus? Which teacher organization this week endorsed O Levels and all existing arrangements for 16-plus by promising to sabotage their replacement? The answer is of course the same. The National Union of Teachers, sometime advocate of educational reform, scourge of "elitist" examination boards, propagandist for a comprehensive scheme of examinations to match the organization of the secondary schools, is turned agent of educational reaction.

It has pulled out of the air a figure for the cost of the new examinations, which happens to be a quintuple of the Government's sum. No negotiation. No room for recalculation. No consultants' reports to back up the reasoning. In this atmosphere of industrial mimicry, the interests of children go by the board.

The union's perennial claim to professional remuneration for its members is lessened. It is not so much the content of its arguments, for of course there is a cost in terms of books and training attached to the new examination and there is no reason to believe the government got it exactly right. It is the procedures the NUT now adopts to put its case: unilateral action, mere months before tuition for the new examination begins in earnest. There are two questions to be asked in the wake of the NUT conference. One, the more pressing, is about the fate of the General Certificate of Secondary Education.

It has been a top-down reform rather than one grown organically out of the life of the schools and their assessments of achievement. Yet it has been one curiously at odds with other educational priorities. Where, for example, is the connexion with the Government's simultaneous concern about standardizing the curriculum of the secondary school. The GCSE reform has been insulated entirely from the debate about introducing into the schools some greater awareness of the industrial and economic circumstances in which we live. The telling question is what relationship exists between the GCSE and the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative.

GCSE stood, and, despite having by Sir Keith Joseph, still stands for the worst of both worlds. It appears to compromise the academic standards of O level while not introducing into the curriculum the vocational and technical component needed to rescue the secondary education of pupils in the lower reaches of the ability range. There is an argument, in other words, for looking again at the examination reform, and at its timeliness.

But now the NUT has thrown down a gauntlet, and the issue also becomes one of management of the education system. That means, in so many words, "doing something" about the NUT. The basis of the pay dispute, has been denunciation of teachers' responsibilities, and the possibility of better pay once those duties had been defined. Now the NUT has made the

question explicit. If teachers cannot be required to undertake specified tasks such as preparation for an examination as laid down by their employers, then educational anarchy looms closer than it has at any time during the past eighteen months of discord.

Action in the first instance must come from the local education authorities. But the Government's priority is clearly to construct a teachers' contract, the breach of which will be an unambiguous action, for which penalty will be exacted. There are those who will say now: let the Government treat the teachers as recalcitrant trade unionists and procure wholesale dismissals. That is no option: There are thousands of school children, fourth-formers this year, who in September are due to start GCSE courses.

To call the teachers' bluff and carry on would be probably to subject schoolchildren to disruption and enervating uncertainty. The alternative course is to suspend the operation of the new exams. That would be a defeat, but one far better than bowing the knee before this Easter militancy and bribing the teachers — and repay them for the heat of their seaside rhetoric. The next steps are subtle. They encompass means of minimizing the influence of the NUT, the reconstruction of pay negotiation and bargaining over conditions of service in such a way that the militants are undermined. The speechifying and voting at this week's conference has made it clear that the NUT has abandoned any claim to a responsible role in the running of the schools.

Essential skills for jobs at top

From the Master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford

Sir, It was a pity that a constructive series of articles on Whitehall could have been rounded off by a confusing leading article (March 27).

I do not know whether "reform" is now in reverse, but I am sure that the achievement of the reforms that are needed will depend on a clearer understanding of the relationship today between Westminster and Whitehall, and between Ministers and Civil Servants, than the article provided. That relationship is at the heart of the difference between Whitehall and the private sector.

It is difficult to judge whether the "boundary between politics and administration" can be redrawn and "polished" without revolutionary changes, without knowing the details of what is proposed; but the essential test would be whether giving Civil Servants "greater discretion to manage the business of government" would significantly limit the accountability of Ministers to Parliament or damage the mutual confidence between them and their officials.

The critics of Whitehall frequently fail to take sufficient account of the environment of political pressures and parliamentary accountability within which government has to be conducted. It is their expertise in managing government business within that environment which marks the particular value of senior Civil Servants to Ministers.

A gross distortion of the Civil Servant's role is implied in the observations: "Westland glorified the Civil Servant as managers but the official as fixer." The Civil Servant, in partnership with Ministers, is a manager of policies and their implementation as well as a manager of money and staffs.

Reforms in the management of government business are certainly needed, and importing more good specialists into Whitehall could help to achieve them. But the special contribution of those coming fresh to Whitehall will need to be complemented by the experience and skills of senior Civil Servants if Ministers are to carry through effectively the agenda for action you envisage "for the sake of programmes and policies."

Yours faithfully, PATRICK NAIRNE, St Catherine's College, Oxford, March 28.

Sunday trading

From Mrs Elizabeth Yonge

Sir, With the furor over the deregulation of the Sunday trading laws, why have the Churches and others stayed so silent about the increasing secularization of Good Friday?

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH YONGE, 33 Chancery Road, SW6, March 26.

Moves to Rome

From Mr Michael Wynne-Parker

Sir, I am encouraged to read that his Holiness the Pope "expresses his fundamental doubts about the possibility of rational advances in the field of ecumenism", referred to by Mr Beckwith (March 25). Ecumenism is similar to utopianism and both, as popularly understood, have much to answer for. Both, in my view, are undesirable, unrealistic and dangerous.

They are undesirable, as the outcome of both would diminish individual development. They are unrealistic, as history shows that enforced collectivity quickly leads to further disquiet. They are dangerous, as their exponents, consumed with desire for One World or One Church, come to regard dissenters as foes to be reckoned with.

Instead of continued preoccupation with the ecumenical dream machine, let us develop appreciation and respect for the genuine contributions of all traditions, learning to co-exist in harmony. It is surely in diversity, coupled with the recognition of the validity of another point of view, that the future of both State and Church—indeed civilization—lies. Yours faithfully, M. WYNNE-PARKER, The Lodge, Saxlingham Thorpe, Norwich, March 27.

Seeking a road to school reform

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt on March 27 under the heading "Why Sir Keith should go now" reveals a disappointing shallowness of thought on the part of such a distinguished journalist. There can be no doubt that there is a need for a fundamental reform to the education system but the proposals outlined by Ronald Butt are almost totally irrelevant to the major issues which the Government resolutely refuses to tackle.

I agree that there is far too much bureaucracy in the maintained education system and there can be no doubt that we need to give a good deal more power and responsibility to the schools themselves. However, to take as one's model either the voluntary-aided sector or the independent sector as the answer to all our ills is to deceive the parents and all others who are rightly concerned about their children's education.

Ronald Butt believes that because there is a high percentage of voluntary-aided schools at the top of the ILEA "league table" or examination results, then that proves that this must be the case throughout the country. He then goes on to argue that the Government must preserve grammar school standards and copy the independent sector by various proposals, including a voucher system and an expansion of the voluntary aided sector. He even introduces the concept of "schools fixing their own teachers' pay", which would be the greatest recipe for chaos.

The Government might believe it to be politically astute to follow

the lines laid down in the article but we are entitled to expect better from this Government and I doubt if it would be quite so politically naive as to interpret the concern about education policy highlighted by the opinion polls as meaning that the public acedes for a return to the grammar school/direct grant school system.

The best way in which this Government can demonstrate that it intends to "start on the fundamental reform of education" (to quote Ronald Butt) and to answer the understandable worries held by parents and others about the education system is to urgently reform the provision for the 14-19 age group and to produce a coherent policy on education and training for all.

It really is time that we started to take a leaf out of the book of our major industrial competitors and began to produce a well educated and well trained cohort of young people so that we can make the earliest possible start on narrowing the gap that so patently exists between us and other industrialised nations.

Such a policy, when implemented by a new department of education and training, would rightly consign the sort of ideas set out in Ronald Butt's article to oblivion which is quite frankly, where they belong. Yours faithfully, DAVID M. HART, General Secretary, The National Association of Head Teachers, Holly House, 6 Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, March 27.

Trial by jury

From Mr J. T. Gladysz

Sir, I find the validity of Bernard Levin's arguments in today's issue of *The Times* (March 28) deserves to be questioned.

Even the best of legal systems cannot stand still, while significant changes occur to the society's behaviour. I do not think Mr Levin would quarrel with the premise that a considerable increase in violent crimes calls for more efficient, if not stronger, measures.

The purpose of a trial by jury was originally dictated by a need for impartiality, at the time when judges were not entirely free of political influences. The reason for such assurance has long since disappeared with the establishment of a complete independence of the judiciary.

Moreover, in most cases ordinary citizens are unable to understand a modern trial, with all its nuances and legal technicalities, and are somewhat lost in distinguishing between valid and improvised evidence.

They are also more susceptible to theatrical performances by some prosecutors and defenders. But if they are to rely only on the judge's summing up and are to act accordingly, then they really defeat the purpose of their own existence. Add to it the parody of jury challenges, and it is clear that the whole jury system should be abolished as outdated.

There is a lot to be said for a trial by a judge with two assessors, all of them trained lawyers, and a majority verdict, as in some continental countries. There are equally sound arguments for an investigation judge, in serious crimes, who would not only ease the task of the police but would also ensure the rights of a suspect. Yours faithfully, J. T. GLADYSZ, 45 Footnote Road, SW16, March 28.

Hospital pressures

From Dr R. L. Bown

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Maurice Sutton (March 21), ascribes the current financial inadequacies of the NHS to consultant over-spending on high-tech equipment, but nothing can be further from the truth in most district general hospitals.

Last week the consultants here spent some hours agonising over the current state of 12-year-old operating theatre tables which are falling apart. The repair of each costs £4,000 and replacement some £8,000, and there is money for neither. This is not high-tech medicine but merely the basic tools of the trade!

The major factor causing the over-spending of the NHS is the ability of modern medicine to treat conditions hitherto untreatable, albeit expensively. Antibiotics for patients with cystic fibrosis, for instance, which was previously fatal, add upwards of £50,000 to our yearly budget and this is not financed. Similarly, road traffic accident patients with multiple fractures and head injuries can be kept alive where previously they would have died.

Overwhelmingly, however, the

aged need more treatment, both individually and in cotitry, and in the last two weeks I have sent patients of 80-plus for pacemaker insertion and a 76-year-old for a heart operation which would outlive her by many years.

Unfortunately, the methods advocated by the Griffiths report, whilst applicable to commerce involved in a profit and loss situation, do not extrapolate to the NHS, where the service must be kept going irrespective of financial considerations. They have merely caused the sacking of our district authority chairman, the resignation of our district general manager and so inability to find consultant members willing to take on chairmanship of the consultant staff committee or membership of the district management team.

Consequent lack of morale amongst staff is now being reflected in a fall in the number of patients that we are able to treat. Yours faithfully, R. L. BOWN, Frimley Park Hospital, Frimley, Surrey, March 25.

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aged need more treatment, both individually and in cotitry, and in the last two weeks I have sent patients of 80-plus for pacemaker insertion and a 76-year-old for a heart operation which would outlive her by many years.

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Sirte recalled

From Sir James Cable

Sir, History is nowadays out of fashion, but a smattering does make international relations easier to understand. David Watts would have been less puzzled (his article in *The Times* of Good Friday) by the action of the Sixth Fleet against Libya if he had remembered what every American schoolboy used to know.

One of the many exceptions to his strange choice of 1917 as the year "when the US first came out to the world stage" was the campaign of 1803-4 which the United States Navy conducted against one of Colonel Gadsdaff's predecessors — Yusuf Karamanli, Bashaw of Tripoli. The American grievance then was much the same: Tripoli was a nest of pirates.

Yours faithfully, JAMES CABLE, 8 Essex Close, Cambridge, March 28.

Broadcasting levels have risen

From the Head of the News Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, There is no doubt that the need to use the BBC Russian Service is as great as it has ever been and I gladly join *The Times* in congratulating the BBC on its 40th anniversary. However, I should like to take issue with a couple of points in your editorial, "For listeners in the East" (March 24).

It may be a familiar misconception but it is simply not true to suggest that Bush House has appeared regularly at the top of a Foreign and Commonwealth Office cost-cutting list. In the last six years there has been a real increase of over 30 per cent in the total grants-in-aid to external services, including a real increase of about 20 per cent in the allocation for current expenditure on broadcasting.

Broadcasting levels have risen

THE JUDGEMENT OF DR WALDHEIM

A year ago it would have seemed inconceivable that a former Secretary General of the United Nations could have had a less than unblemished past. The checks on any candidate for such a post are so rigorous, the documents consulted so numerous that no one with any skeleton to conceal would even have submitted himself for election in the first place. Or so it was thought.

Credulity would have been stretched still further if the name of Dr Kurt Waldheim had been mentioned in this connection—a man who, while at the UN, became famous (some would say notorious) for the dull probity he brought to the job. Yet it is Dr Waldheim, in particular his war record, which is now under scrutiny.

The question originally posed was this: Was Dr Waldheim involved, however indirectly, in the deportation of Greek Jews from Salonika while serving with the German army in the Balkans in 1942? And if he was involved, even peripherally, should he be eligible for public office—not for the UN post from which he has already retired, but for the Presidency of Austria to which he now aspires.

The accusations, made originally by the World Jewish Congress, have split international opinion. They have also split Jewish opinion, with the renowned Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, protesting Dr Waldheim's innocence. In recent weeks archivists from Washington to Belgrade have been combing their records for references to Waldheim, and the Balkan deportations. And yesterday, Dr Waldheim was moved to produce alibis for his good conduct in the Balkans for the benefit of assembled journalists in Vienna. But still the picture is unclear.

What is clear, perhaps all that is clear so far, is that a part of Dr Waldheim's past is missing. The gap relates to a period when the extant records show him to have been serving in the Balkans, a time and a place associated with some of the less savoury episodes of the second world war. But the coincidence of these facts cannot in itself be held to damn the former UN Secretary General.

Where he does stand condemned is in his apparent disregard of the problem until now. Questioned about the omission of the disputed period from his autobiography,

he gave the less than ingenuously reply that a full account of his life would be too boring. And he has since been unable to come up with any satisfactory explanation, let alone documentation, that would clarify his wartime activities. Indeed, the available evidence suggests that he concealed the fact that he had served in the Balkans. Such a lack of judgement is no recommendation for a man who is putting himself forward for election as a statesman.

This omission is particularly unfortunate, however, for a man who would represent Austria on the international stage. Many would feel that, while Germans—East and West—have gone a long way towards expiating the sins of their Nazi past, Austrians have maintained a disturbing ambiguity towards their recent history. Austria needs a president whose integrity is beyond reproach. This is why it is so important that Dr Waldheim should account for his conduct fully, even though it relates to a period more than 40 years removed from the present. If he cannot do so, he should stand down: not as a recognition of guilt, but for the sake of his country.

They are dangerous, as their exponents, consumed with desire for One World or One Church, come to regard dissenters as foes to be reckoned with. Instead of continued preoccupation with the ecumenical dream machine, let us develop appreciation and respect for the genuine contributions of all traditions, learning to co-exist in harmony. It is surely in diversity, coupled with the recognition of the validity of another point of view, that the future of both State and Church—indeed civilization—lies. Yours faithfully, M. WYNNE-PARKER, The Lodge, Saxlingham Thorpe, Norwich, March 27.

FAIR SHARES FOR ALL

Too many loose ends are now hanging out of the Stock Exchange inquiry into dealings in Westland shares. Much hangs on its successful completion and, in the end, it may yet be the Department of Trade and Industry that has the task of tidying them up.

First, there is the reputation of the system of self-regulation practised by the City of London, elements of which the Government is seeking to carry forward into the new, more competitive world of finance that will exist from this autumn. Lessons from this inquiry should inform the argument surrounding the Financial Services Bill, as to the proper powers to be vested in the Securities and Investment Board.

Second, there is the question of public confidence in the rights of the small shareholder, and thus in the credibility of the vision of "popular capitalism" nurtured by the Prime Minister. And, third, comes the peaceful conclusion of a debate into the future of a small British manufacturing concern which has already driven two senior ministers from the Cabinet.

It may be the third that

stimulates most political interest in the Stock Exchange inquiry, but it is tangential to the main issues. The questions raised by "mystery buying" of Westland shares for sums way over the market price touch on the rules governing the struggles for control of a wide variety of public companies.

The Stock Exchange report is not yet complete; that, so far, is the Department of Trade and Industry's excuse for taking no action. The Stock Exchange's evidence is incomplete; that is its excuse for delaying publication, and perhaps for publishing only an abridged report at the end of the day. But, as a minimum, both institutions have to make clear their recommendations on certain key points.

If the Stock Exchange now has any doubt about the adequacy of existing rules requiring large shareholders to offer the same price for all other shares, it should clarify these immediately. The present rules certainly appeared to allow trading in Westland shares to be carried on in a way that grossly disadvantaged small shareholders; it is now up to the Stock Exchange to amend or justify these rules.

A trickier problem for the Stock Exchange is raised by the question as to whether the buying of shares at a premium was orchestrated by a "concert party" of purchasers who took care to conceal their identity. Such a conspiracy would not be easy to establish. Westland and its advisers, which in the interests of all shareholders have an obvious need to establish the truth, may get further in their investigations than the Stock Exchange.

But neither can afford to leave the issue in doubt. The Stock Exchange should be encouraged to give full and public answers. In the past, it has had the courage to publish some pretty plain speaking. But it seems likely, at the end of the day, that the Stock Exchange will simply find itself short of evidence.

The responsibility for investigation will then rest squarely on the Department of Trade and Industry. It is, indeed, questionable whether the DTI should not have begun its own inquiries already. The very least it can do is hold itself ready to act swiftly. The cause of self-regulation will not be enhanced by a slow buck-pass from one authority to another.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 3: The Prince Andrew left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for Seassau, the Bahamas where His Royal Highness will attend a dinner-dance in aid of the Gordonstoun American Foundation.

By command of The Queen, Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) this morning called upon His Excellency the Hon. J. V. Cruz and Madame Cruz at 9 Palace Green, W8, in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Philippines to the Court of St James's.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 3: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this evening attended the premiere of the film Absolute Beginners, in celebration of the City of Westminster's 400 years, at the Leicester

Birthdays today
Mr Peter Attenborough, 48; Sir John Beith, 72; the Right Rev D.S. Cross, 58; Brigadier Anne Field, 60; Mr John Fleming, 50; Mr Trevor Gifford, 51; Earl Jellicoe, 68; Colonel B.M. Knox, 70; Viscount Leathers, 78; the Marquis de Santa Cruz, 84.

Judges retire
Judge Abdela, QC, retired from the Circuit Bench on the South-eastern Circuit on April 2, and Judge Davison retired from the Circuit Bench on the Midland and Oxford Circuit on April 1.

Cranwell graduation

Air Vice-Marshal D.B. Leach, Director General Security, was the reviewing officer when 110 officers of No 91 Initial Officer Training Course graduated from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on March 27.

Science report

Artificial artery stands up to tests

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An artificial blood vessel has withstood the physiological pressures of a human artery in laboratory tests. The cells of the innermost lining of natural ones, the man-made variety secretes substances such as prostacyclin and Willbrand's factor when blood is recirculated through it.

Lesson in classic economics

By Philip Howard

In his presidential address to the Classical Association of Scotland and England in Glasgow, Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, scolded the British educational system for its attitude towards industry.

He asked whether enough is done in schools and universities to equip students of the humanities for life in a struggling economy. It was a message expecting the answer no. And it got it.

Sir Nicholas was saddened that the cultural tradition in Britain was strongly biased against trade and industry. He thought that the snobbish Edwardian put-down, 'his family is in trade', still ruled.

In the country of Watt and Brunel, it was incredible that industrial management and engineering should be held in such low esteem by young people.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Donell and Miss A.C. Williamson
The engagement is announced between Dane Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Dame Douelle, Busbridge Lakes, Hertfordshire, and Antonia Clara, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Williamson, 14 Park Crescent, Twickenham.

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Marine Society

A bicentenary commemorative service will be held at 5pm, on Tuesday, June 10, in Westminster Abbey, for Jonas Ericsson (1713-1861), founder of the Marine Society. The address will be given by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin. Inquiries should be addressed to the secretary at 202 Lambeth Road, London, SE1.

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The 214th annual court of the Marine Society will be held at 5pm on Thursday, May 8, at the Mansion House, Viscount Runciman of Doxford, president, will be in the chair.

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OBITUARY SIR PETER PEARS Celebrated tenor of Britten operas

Sir Peter Pears, CBE, the singer and one of the founders of the Aldeburgh Festival, died suddenly yesterday at The Red House, the home in Aldeburgh he shared for three decades with Benjamin Britten. He was 75.

Pears's tenor voice was unique. Opinions may have been divided about the quality of the sound but there can be no disputing his prodigious technical accomplishment.

He never ceased to study. At one point in his career, having, through overwork, developed an excessive vibrato, he completely revised his technique and emerged a finer singer than ever.

Pears was born in Farham on June 22, 1910, the son of Arthur and Jessie Pears. He was educated at Lancing College and, in 1928, spent a year as a temporary organist at Hertford College, Oxford, followed by four years as Director of Music at Grange School, Crowborough. From there he won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he spent two terms in 1933-34.

He gained his early experience as a professional singer with the BBC Singers, the New English Singers, and in the chorus at Glyndebourne. In the years immediately before the Second World War he was already emerging as one of the most gifted young soloists in the country.

In 1939 Pears began to give recitals with Benjamin Britten, initiating a musical partnership which continued until Britten's death in 1976. Their performance of the Schubert song-cycles in particular became celebrated throughout Western Europe as well as in America and Russia.

But the relationship proved productive far beyond the bounds of a professional duo. Britten, inspired by Pears's superb musicianship and deep understanding of the music, composed for him some of his finest works for his recitals.

Pears's singing of them will always remain, for those who heard him, the definitive performance. He was associated with the first performance of most of Britten's other works for concert and stage and often collaborated with the composer in the choice of poetry and

Somehow, too, in spite of an appallingly heavy schedule during the festival, he managed to be a generous and delightful host to visiting artists.

The universities of York, Sussex, Cambridge and Edinburgh conferred honorary degrees upon him.

When Britten became seriously ill, at the beginning of the 1970s, Pears started to give recitals

BA threatened by £259 cut in Atlantic fares

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

British Airways is facing a new threat on the Atlantic with price cuts of over £250 between Britain and Canada proposed by Canada's Wardair charter airline.

Wardair, the biggest UK-Canada carrier with nearly a third of the £150 million-a-year market, is proposing to start a new scheduled service on May 1 with a business-class fare of £345 one-way from Gatwick to Toronto or Montreal compared with £604 by BA.

They also plan an economy return to match charter rates at about £300 compared with over £600 by other scheduled carriers.

The move springs from the new competitive environment encouraged by Canada's Conservative government. But it is expected to be strongly opposed by BA and the British Government who, while interested in competition on air routes, also want the best possible sale price for BA.

According to Mr Brian Walker, Wardair's sales and marketing chief, objection by

BA to the proposed Wardair rates will almost certainly result in immediate withdrawal of Wardair's new licence to operate as a scheduled carrier.

But if that happens, he said at a London press conference, they will continue with the same service as a charter airline to which those restrictions do not apply. The only difference is passengers will need to book in advance and buy a round-trip ticket.

"The bilateral rules come up for renegotiation soon and we think it is time they were changed. They operate simply to protect a fare-fixing cartel against the public interest," Mr Walker said.

To avoid licensing problems, Wardair are describing their new service not as two-class but as one-class economy on which any passenger who has paid his £15 one-way fare can buy an extra-large business-type seat for another £30.

BA said last night that they could not comment before receiving details of Wardair proposals.

Work-rate slows on Anglo-Irish accord

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The Irish Government will emphasize the symbolic importance of the Anglo-Irish agreement throughout the testing months of the summer rather than push for any dramatic developments in the North.

With little visible change on the ground in Northern Ireland since the agreement was signed almost five months ago, it is clear that the pace of work within the framework of the deal with Dublin has been reduced.

Within the British Government ministers wish to press ahead with developments while others caution against such an approach believing that Unionists should not be further antagonized by the introduction of measures that would be

seen as flowing from the agreement.

A number of committees have been set up to look at areas such as the administration of justice but it is understood that it will "take time" to produce results.

Although both governments insist that they will not accept Unionist demands for the suspension of the agreement to allow talks to begin, there was a gap of nine weeks between the meetings of the third and fourth joint ministerial conference and no date has yet been fixed for another.

In Dublin the Government is anxious that the length of time between those meetings should not become too long, believing that they would be interpreted as a sign of weakness by Unionist politicians.

Firefighters' courage saves Illustrious

By Gavin Bell

The skill and courage of firefighters in the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious were largely responsible for averting a potential catastrophe yesterday after an explosion started an inferno deep inside the ship, her captain said.

The incident, as the 20,000-ton carrier was steaming at 30 knots away from south-west England, caused no casualties but forced postponement of a nine-month flag-waving voyage around the world by Illustrious and six Royal Navy ships.

Senior officers who began a preliminary inquiry after the carrier limped home to Portsmouth said the cause of the blast in the forward (starboard) gear-room was not known, but that there was no evidence of sabotage.

Commander William Bowman said the ship was sailing on full power to tame up two new gas turbine engines when a deafening bang resounded through all decks at about 12.30am.

As alarms began ringing in the damaged control room, an enormous sheet of flame erupted almost immediately from one of the two funnels.

Captain Alan Grose said: "It was immediately apparent to me, standing on the bridge, that we had a major problem. Fortunately our fire attack teams displayed exemplary skill and courage and prevented what could have been a catastrophe."

Captain Grose said that as soon as the fire had been located, it was doused with bursts of inert halogen gas and water-based foam. The "standing sea fire parties" then fought their way through narrow passageways obscured by smoke near the keel and using thermal imaging equipment identified remaining pockets of fire that could have ignited further explosions.

The blaze was confined to the area of the explosion and extinguished within 90 minutes. None of the six sea Harrier jets or twelve helicopters was damaged. Commander Bowman said there had been no confusion but that it had been difficult at first to pinpoint the blaze.

"Everybody reacted remarkably quickly, considering that they were asleep at the time. Fog and fire are the two great terrors of all



After the fire, Illustrious limping back into Portsmouth harbour yesterday.



Captain Alan Grose: praise for his crew

seamen. It is quite frightening to advance along a darkened corridor in intense heat, towards an extremely fierce fire.

However, the conduct of the attack team was absolutely correct. But for them, the consequences could have been much more serious."

Nobody was in the gear-room, housing a 200-ton gearbox the size of a small house, when it exploded - but two seamen had a narrow escape.

Chief Petty Officer Martin Smith, aged 33, of Hilsen, Portsmouth, and leading Marine Engineer Philip Stephens left the room five minutes earlier for a cup of coffee.

Lessons learned in the Falkland campaign helped to protect the 1,500 crew as dense smoke swirled below decks. All were equipped with breathing apparatus produced since

the South Atlantic battles.

Captain Grose said the investigators were looking at whether the explosion had implications for other navy vessels, or whether it was an isolated incident.

The aim of "Global 86", in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean, is to participate in exercises with allied forces and to increase British defence sales. The manoeuvres were to have begun with an anti-submarine exercise off the west coast of France yesterday.

HMS Illustrious, which entered service in June, 1982, is the second of three aircraft carriers of similar design which have entered service since the late 1970s. The first was the Invincible and the latest Ark Royal, which first sailed last July.



Firefighters: Chief Petty Officer Nick Aldridge (left); Petty Officer Steve Levitt and Warrant Officer Wilki Feebury.

Waldheim friends speak out in defence

Vienna (Reuters) - Nine people who knew Dr Kurt Waldheim between 1937 and 1945 yesterday spoke out in his defence as a news conference called by the organizers of his campaign for the Austrian presidency.

Fellow officers and subordinates who served with Dr Waldheim in the Balkans backed up his statement that he was not involved in atrocities against Yugoslav partisans and knew nothing about the deportation of Greek Jews.

But the "Witnesses From the Past" conference was disturbed by demonstrators who unfurled paper banners silently behind the speakers. "We want Hitler as a defence witness," read one. "Memory gap for president," ran a second. A third quoted Dr Waldheim's repeated position: "I first learnt of Jewish deportations from Salonika in 1986."

The speakers ignored the demonstrators. Mr Fritz Molden, who was involved in clearing Dr Waldheim in 1945 for service in Austria's post-war Foreign Ministry, said he was checked against any Nazi taint within a week by Austria's Interior Ministry and two American organizations, including the forerunner to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"There was nothing in the files that could have shown that Waldheim was a Nazi," Mr Molden said. "It would have been unimaginable for the Foreign Ministry to have taken him on if he was in the SA, (the elite Nazi) SS or anything else."

Leading article, page 13

Police seek Arab for TWA bomb

Continued from page 1

in Athens with the Greek Government's permission to co-operate with Greek experts in establishing the facts.

The FBI agents yesterday searched the luggage and cargo, which had been left on the plane untouched. The surviving passengers were being questioned by Greek security men.

been interrogated by Greek police for nine hours, said he could not rule out that the explosive had come on board in Cairo. "These weapons are getting across the line somehow." But, he added, he did not know how security checks could be improved further.

● BEIRUT: Vowing to launch further attacks against American targets "across the world," an anonymous caller yesterday claimed responsibility for the bombing of the TWA jet on behalf of a group believed to have links with Abu Nidal. (Our Correspondent writes.) The claim was made by a male caller to a Western news agency in west Beirut.

In heavily Palestinian-occupied Arab, he said the bombing of the flight was the work of the Arab Revolutionary Cells.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Margaret opens the re-furnished offices of the Bromsgrove District Council, 3.05.

New exhibitions

Tapestries by Maria Rogoska and glass by Steven Newell: British Crafts Centre, 43 Earham St, WC2; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 11 to 5 (ends May 3).

Recent works by Denzil Forrester: Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High St, W8; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 28).

Smoke screens by Steve Rush: The Foyer, Barbican Centre, EC2; Mon to Sat 10 to 10 (ends April 20).

Works by Wendy Raphael: The Glass Gallery, Lloyd St, Manchester; House, Lloyd St, Manchester.

Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 1 to 4 (ends April 25).

Hard Times: The Children's Society Photographs 1985 by Mark Power: Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High St, Brentford; Mon to Sun 11 to 9.30pm (ends May 4).

Gallery Spectators: animated sculpture by Tim Huokin; Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5, closed 3 (ends April 27).

Photographs by Gene Lambert: Orchard Gallery, Orchard St, Londonderry; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends April 26).

Exhibitions in progress

Prints by Stephen Gooden; Charrington Print Room (ends April 27); The Sir Geoffrey Keynes Collection (William Blake and his associates) (ends May 11); The Fitzwilliam Mu-

seum, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5.

A Show of Hands: Graves Art Gallery, Surrey St, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 19).

Pate de verre by Diana Holson: Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, SW7; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.40, Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30, closed Friday (ends April 17).

Last chance to see Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art; Derby City Museum and Art Gallery, 10 to 5.

Music

Recital by Donna Deam (soprano) with Musica Dolce; St James's, Piccadilly, W1, 1.10.

Concert by the Hartley Trio; Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, W1, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Guildhall, Southampton, 8.

Guitar recital by Neil Smith; Grundy Art Gallery, Queen St, Blackpool, 12.45.

Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta with Evangelos and Liza (guitar); St Andrew's, Chippinham, 7.30.

Film recital by John Savory; Art Gallery, Bury St Edmunds, 1.05.

Talks, lectures, films

Laurence in the House of Fictions: Paolozzi and exhibitionism, by Anthony Shelton; Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, W1, 1.

Masterpieces of Persia, Turkish and Mughal painting, 12; Manuscript treasures from India, 2.30, both by Barbara Bland; The British Museum, Great Russell St, WC1.

Dieu et mon droit: York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Sq, 1 and 3.

The Planet Uranus: past and present, by Prof A J Meadows; The Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.

Austen: Life and Death: Medical ethics and the law, by Prof D D Raphael; The Council Chamber, Leeds University, 5.30.

General: Model and Hobby World; Alexandra Park, N22, today, tomorrow and Sunday 10 to 8 (ends April 6).

Fan making workshop; Museum of London, London Wall, EC2, 11 to 2 to 4.

British International Antiques Fair: National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, today, tomorrow 11 to 9, Sun 11 to 6, Mon and Tues 11 to 9, Wed 11 to 6 (ends April 9).

The pound

Bank of England	Bank of England
Australia \$	2.11
Austria Sch	25.20
Belgium Fr	74.30
Canada \$	2.11
Denmark Kr	12.37
France F	6.56
Germany DM	11.88
Greenland Dk	233.00
Hong Kong \$	11.70
India Rupee	1.49
Italy Lira	3445.00
Japan Yen	275.00
Netherlands Gld	4.14
Norway Kr	11.15
Portugal Esc	200.00
Spain Ptas	225.50
South Africa Rd	4.10
Switzerland Fr	2.20
Sweden Kr	11.30
Switzerland Fr	2.21
Yugoslavia Dnr	540.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank Plc. Offered rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business. Retail Price Index: 261.1

London: The FT Index closed up 6.5 at 1425.8

Food prices

Meat prices have not changed much since Easter, but most butchers will have special offers. A few of this week's good buys are:

1 Dewhurst New Zealand lamb legs £1.39 a lb and Dewfresh turkeys, with no additives or water, 99p a lb. Fine Fare best top-side and silver-side £1.84 a lb. Safeway New Zealand lamb rib chops £1.19 a lb and loin chops £1.29 a lb; Sainsbury English pork shoulder £1.36 a lb and back and top rib of beef £1.52; Bejam sirloin steak £3.44 a lb and pork chops 99p a lb. Tesco New Zealand lamb chops £1.24 and braising steak £1.58 a lb.

Most fish should be cheaper by the weekend. Look out for farmed trout and salmon. More than 1,500 boxes of salmon, and a best buy at 45-50p. There are adequate supplies of prawns at 25-30p a lb, onions 10-20p a lb and swedes 15-20p a lb. Egyptian King Edward and Carina potatoes at 15-10p a lb are excellent. Broccoli from Spain and Italy 90p-£1.20p a lb, mangetout £1.50-£2 a lb and courgettes 60-90p a lb.

Iceberg lettuce is good value at 50-60p a head. Spanish and Israeli lettuce 35-45p a head, cooked beetroot 28-35p a lb, Maroon tomatoes 35-50p a lb, green and red peppers 80p-£1 and avocados from 25p each.

Anniversaries

Births: Grilling Gibbons, woodcarver, Rotterdam, 1648; Sir William Siemens, metallurgist and inventor, Lenthe, Germany, 1823; René de Gormont, writer, Bazoches-en-Moulines, France, 1858; Maurice de Vlaminck, painter, Paris, 1876.

Deaths: Oliver Goldsmith, London, 1774; William Henry Harrison, general and ninth president of the USA, served only one month, March-April 1841, Washington, 1841; Carl Benz, automobile engineer, Ladenburg, Germany, 1929; Martha Luther King, assassin, Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.

North Atlantic Treaty (Nato) signed in Washington, 1949.

The North Sea: Lane closures between junctions 21 and 22, single line traffic to operate for short periods. M11: Construction of new motorway link at Walton Summit, inside lane closures on both carriageways at the junction of M61 and M6. A26: Severe delays at three different locations on the A26, Liverpool; 6: version sliproad; temporary 50mph limit.

Scotland: A75: Single line traffic at Eastgate between Thirane Bridge and junctions 15 and 16. A76: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

Wales and West: A45: Roadworks causing delays at junction 10 closed. A442: Reconstruction work continues to affect the Colehill bypass. A45: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

The North Sea: Lane closures between junctions 15 (A50) and 16 (A442) on the A222 at junction 10 closed. A442: Reconstruction work continues to affect the Colehill bypass. A45: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

Wales and West: Lane closures between junctions 6 (A50) and 7 (Tewkesbury), A48: One lane closed between the Ashburton to Plymouth road at Ashburton, A48: Single line traffic westbound on the Newport to Cardiff road at Castellon.

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Top Films

The top box-office films in London:

- (1) Out of Africa
- (2) Jagged Edge
- (3) Clockwise
- (4) White Nights
- (5) Flaw
- (6) Young Sherlock Holmes & Pyramid Film
- (7) Back to the Future
- (8) No Surrender
- (9) Kiss of the Spider Woman
- (10) The Untouchables

The top films in the provinces:

- 1 Clockwise
- 2 Back to the Future
- 3 Out of Africa
- 4 Young Sherlock Holmes & Pyramid of Fear
- 5 Commando

Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

- (1) Return of the Jedi
- (2) Police Academy 2: Their 1st Year
- (3) Brewster's Millions
- (4) Rambo: First Blood 2
- (5) Meek
- (6) Ghostbusters
- (7) The Untouchables
- (8) Lightyears
- (9) Beverly Hills Cop

Supplied by Video Business

Roads

London and South-east: Sixteen diversion for traffic approaching the junction of the A222 Station Rd and the A211 High St, Ashford, on Western Ave. A20 will restrict the flow of westbound traffic near Park Royal. Underground works on the Ashburton to Plymouth road at Ashburton, A48: Single line traffic westbound on the Newport to Cardiff road at Castellon.

The Midlands: M1: Lane closures between junctions 15 (A50) and 16 (A442) on the A222 at junction 10 closed. A442: Reconstruction work continues to affect the Colehill bypass. A45: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

Wales and West: A45: Roadworks causing delays at junction 10 closed. A442: Reconstruction work continues to affect the Colehill bypass. A45: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

The North Sea: Lane closures between junctions 21 and 22, single line traffic to operate for short periods. M11: Construction of new motorway link at Walton Summit, inside lane closures on both carriageways at the junction of M61 and M6. A26: Severe delays at three different locations on the A26, Liverpool; 6: version sliproad; temporary 50mph limit.

Scotland: A75: Single line traffic at Eastgate between Thirane Bridge and junctions 15 and 16. A76: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

Wales and West: A45: Roadworks causing delays at junction 10 closed. A442: Reconstruction work continues to affect the Colehill bypass. A45: Roadworks causing delays on the main Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton.

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Weather forecast

A showery N to NE airflow will cover the country.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Sunny intervals and showers, some heavy with hail, thunder and snow in places; wind N to NE light or moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

Central S, central N England, Midlands: Misty at first but sunny intervals and showers developing during the morning; the showers will largely die out during the evening; wind N to NE light or moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Sunny intervals and showers, some heavy with hail and thunder and falling as snow over high ground; wind N to NE moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers, some heavy with hail and thunder and falling as snow over high ground; wind N to NE moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow

Walden
friends
speak
in detail

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1425.9 (+6.5)
FT-SE 100 1717.6 (+14.7)
USM (Datastream) 118.74 (+0.12)
THE POUND
US Dollar 1.4600 (-0.0135)
W German mark 3.4806 (-0.0079)
Trade-weighted 76.5 (same)

Air group's £78m issue

Guinness Peat Aviation, the world's largest aircraft operating lease company, yesterday announced the private placement of \$115 million (£78.76 million) of convertible preferred shares with Japanese, European and US investors. The placement, which was oversubscribed from an original \$100 million, has trebled the company's equity to \$190 million. The largest subscribers to the placement were Long Term Credit Bank of Japan, which took a total of \$55 million, Prudential Insurance Corporation of America and General Electric Credit Corporation.

Reckitt lift

Reckitt & Colman, the household products group, lifted profits from £106 million to £123 million before tax in the year to January 4. Turnover rose from £1.12 billion to £1.27 billion and the final dividend is increased from 8.8p to 10p. *Tempus, page 19*

Ibstock lower

Ibstock Johnsons, the brick manufacturer, made pretax profits of £1.4 million in 1985, down from £12.4 million. Turnover moved ahead to £51.1 million to £53.9 million and the dividend is increased by 0.8p to 4.8p. *Tempus, page 19*

Record sale

Barclays Bank of Kenya is planning the biggest-ever stock flotation on the Nairobi stock exchange by selling up to 5 million shares to Kenyan citizens. The flotation is aimed at transferring 30 per cent of the bank's ownership from London to Kenyan nationals.

Peel issue

Peel, the property developer, says it will save more than £1 million a year in interest charges through the issue of £35 million 9% per cent debenture stock 2011. The proceeds will refinance medium term borrowings.

Bid prospect

Bacon Co of Ireland says it is in discussions with other parties which may lead to a bid. No other details have been disclosed.

All clear

The Trade Secretary has decided not to refer the following proposed acquisitions to the Monopolies Commission: Smith Bros and Scott Goff Layton; Banque Bruxelles Lambert and Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin; and Hill Samuel Group and Wood Mackenzie.

Govett talks

Govett Atlantic Investment Trust and Govett Enterprise Investment Trust are in discussions which may lead to Atlantic buying the shares in Enterprise it does not already own.

Oxford deal

Oxford Instruments has conditionally agreed to acquire the outstanding minority partnership interest in Oxford Superconducting of New Jersey, a specialised magnet manufacturer, for an estimated \$12.4 million (£8.4 million).

SE to seek inquiry into 'secret' Westland deals

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The Department of Trade and Industry is to be asked to investigate possible breaches of the Companies Act during the bitter proxy battle among Westland shareholders last January.

This would be an offence under the 1985 Companies Act and would warrant the appointment of inspectors by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary. The Stock Exchange's report on the share dealings is unlikely to be published in full.

Instead, the exchange's council is expected to publish a statement naming the three stockbroking firms which acted on behalf of the six mystery shareholders who bought into Westland before the shareholders' meeting on February 12.

The stockbroking firms were Rowe & Pitman, Scrimgeour Vickers and Hoare Govett. The Stock Exchange's investigating committee, chaired by Mr Peter Willis, a former deputy chairman of



Paul Channon

the exchange, is believed to have concluded that it would be difficult to prove the existence of a concert party although there are grounds for suspecting it. The inquiry started in early February after allegations that a false market had developed in Westland shares. At one stage prices of up to 125p a share were being offered by mystery buyers for big parcels of shares. Small shareholders on the other hand were being offered no more than the market price of 90p a share. A Stock Exchange report

later revealed that six mystery shareholders, including three Swiss bank nominees, held a 20.33 per cent interest in the company. Westland has attempted to investigate the ultimate beneficial owners of these shares using powers under section 212 of the Companies Act. TNT, the Australian transport group, has confirmed that it is the beneficial owner of a 4.99 per cent stake but the other shareholders have yet to reply to letters requesting details of beneficiaries.

Mr Michael Baughan of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, said TNT had denied it was acting in concert with any other shareholder. The hovers who acted for beneficial owners, as yet undisclosed, were Sterling Trust, based in Geneva, Gulf and Occidental Investment Bank, Lynx Marketing, registered in Panama, and two Swiss bank nominees under the name of Dreyfus.

The Stock Exchange is expected to propose a new set of rules to deal with Westland-like proxy battles. Pre-Budget secrecy prevented the authorities from taking any in depth soundings in the City but it surely cannot have taken much foresight to see that the stock exchange would vehemently oppose the ADR tax. The Treasury, however, clearly lacked the foresight believing the stock exchange would welcome anything that choked off the ADR market which over the last five years has meant a considerable drain of business to the United States and other overseas markets.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lawson's ADR tax lacks foresight

The Treasury is often accused of being mean but rarely of being inept. When the chairmen of three of Britain's leading companies accuse it of just such a shortcoming, it must therefore sit up and take note. The occasion was the Budget imposition of a discriminatory 5 per cent tax on American Depository Receipts. It was bound to be viewed, the chairmen of BAT Industries, Unilever, and British Petroleum said in a recent letter to The Times as another piece of anti American prejudice.

The new tax does indeed seem to have been particularly badly thought through. It was excused by the chancellor in the Budget as a way of making up for revenue lost because of the halving of stamp duty on share transactions. But revenue earning ability of the new tax is doubtful. The effect will either be to cboke off the ADR market completely or to drive companies into tax avoidance schemes as extreme as registering offshore.

things, our successful pharmaceutical industry (in which ICI plays a notable part) has more in common with casting manhole covers (manufacturing) than with contract research or medicine (services).

If we remove that false line between manufacturing and tradable business as a whole - even if we exclude oil as temporary - then Sir John's message becomes clearer. Overall, we are still insuring our share of world markets and taking big industry far granted instead of nurturing it. The general climate of opinion may be crucial as a background to national policy, but it is clearly not enough in itself. Sir John bemoans the City's short-term view of industry but he neglects to note that market forces increasingly prevent investment managers taking a more "responsible" tack. Intervention would be needed in change that.

The ICI chairman does want government to suit taxation, energy costs and exchange rates to industry's needs. He would also like aid with prototypes and support for pure science. But he appears to reject industrial policy in the sense used in Japan and France.

In doing so, he may be neglecting some of the things the community can supply while asking for certainities governments cannot offer.

Banks play it cool

A weakening in the oil price has been foreseen for some time by many of the banks. But predictions centred on \$20 a barrel or, according to the real Cassandras, \$15 a barrel. It is probably fair to say that the present \$10 to \$11 a barrel only featured in "worst case" forecasts.

There is also another thought drifting around those in the City with a penchant for conspiracy theories. The much muted alternative to stamp duty was, before the Budget, some kind of tax on banking transactions. The major clearing banks jibbed at the idea. But they have nothing to fear from anything that stifles the booming ADR market since they, and their British based securities trading offshoots, are prevented by the US Glass-Steagall Act from operating in that market.

Yet officially, the banks are staying cool. The oil price, they argue, must bounce back to reasonable levels. At the same time British banks, such as Bank of Scotland, which specialise in the sector, have been switching their businesses out of loan exposures.

If a crisis does come the banks are agreed that it will be triggered by collapses among small American regional banks.

However, small bank collapses are nothing unusual in the United States. In any case, the shrinking margins on energy lending in recent years have meant that most of the business has been done by the big banks, behind which stands the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. This argument, however, again raises the question of the distinction between expendable "small" banks and protected "big" ones.

Message from ICI

There are no prizes for answering the question "Does industry matter?" - especially as the title of Sir John Harvey-Jones's Dimpleby lecture. For the question to be controversial you have to insert the adjective "manufacturing," and to enter one of those proxy political arguments in which phrases do duty for ideas. Manufacturing industry is no more good or bad than public expenditure or the infrastructure. Sadly, ICI's chairman falls into the trap of contrasting manufacturing, which does the man's work of exporting or wealth creation, with services, which are jolly good but not like the real thing. In this scheme of

Two City self-regulating organizations to merge

By Lawrence Lever

The shape of the self-regulatory framework for the City is likely to become a little clearer within the next few weeks. Two of the intended self-regulatory organizations are to announce that they are to merge, while a third is likely to be canvassing for members by the end of this month.

The chief executive of the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim), Mr John Grant, said yesterday that Nasdim and the Life and Unit Trust Intermediaries Regulatory Organization (LUTIRO) would be merging, although a formal announcement would not be made at least until the end of this month.

"We have not yet decided on a name for the combined group", Mr Grant said. The merger has been encouraged by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), which would like five self-regulatory organizations operating beneath it. Mr Grant said that many of Nasdim's members are already providing services analogous to life and unit trust intermediaries, hence a merger with LUTIRO made sense. The chairman of the LUTIRO organizing committee, Mr Henry White-Smith, said yesterday that some of the existing intermediaries would decide to become company representatives rather than face the costs of joining a self-regulatory organization, while others would not satisfy the tests of competence. The formation of another self-regulatory organization -

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organization (LUTURO) - moved a step closer this week. The various working parties set up by the LUTURO steering group this week produced a consolidated report on aspects of the marketing of life assurance and unit trusts, together with a draft prospectus for membership of LUTURO.

The draft prospectus will be considered at a meeting of the steering group scheduled for next Tuesday and, subject to the approval of the group, it will be sent out by the end of next week. The membership of LUTURO will be primarily composed of authorized insurance companies and managers of authorized unit trusts.

Acorn confident as losses fall

By Carol Ferguson

Acorn Computer Group, maker of the BBC micro computer, which came perilously close to going under last year before being rescued by Olivetti, seems no reason to make a loss in 1986. Mr Brian Long, the managing director, would not commit himself to a specific profit forecast, but he hoped to do a little better than break even in the year to December 1986, after 18 months of losses.

For the period to December 1985, the first six months of operation since being rescued by Olivetti, Acorn yesterday reported a pretax loss of £2.9 million. Compared with the £22.2 million loss reported in the year to June 1985, this is a significant improvement which is due in large measure to the reduction of excess stocks and purchase commitments, streamlining of corporate activities and reducing overheads.

The year-end has been moved from June to December to bring it into line with that of the Olivetti Group which now owns 79.4 per cent of Acorn's equity. The annual report is due out shortly. Like last year, the accounts will be qualified by the auditors in respect of possible underpayment of Value Added Tax of £2.6 million. In 1985, Customs and Excise feared that Acorn may be insolvent, and needed to make an assessment in order to rank as a creditor. Poor record keeping made it difficult to agree the amount immediately. £245,000 in the latest accounts, in its view a generous estimate of the eventual liability including professional fees. Because the assessment is still in force, the auditors have taken the view that the accounts should be qualified. Acorn expects to settle with Customs and Excise within a month. Having Olivetti as the major shareholder will allow Acorn the luxury of being able to spend one-third of its capital expenditure on research and development. Turnover for the first three months of 1986 is slightly ahead of last, but business is still heavily dependent on the BBC micro. For the six months to June 1986, the BBC micro will account for nearly 90 per cent of turnover - This will fall to around 70 per cent in the second half. From 1987 on, Acorn envisages that only 50 per cent of sales will be products of that type, the balance being OEM. No dividend is being declared, and none is envisaged for the foreseeable future.

TKM tops profits forecast

By Teresa Poole

Mr Roo Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, yesterday bolstered his £100 million bid for the Kenning Motor Group with better than forecast results for Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, the motor distributor in which the Brierley subsidiary IEP Finance holds a 62 per cent stake. Tozer's profits before exceptional items were £6.05 million compared with a forecast of £4 million made at the time of the rights issue in November.

The share offer for Kenning, by Tozer and IEP Finance, is now worth 236p a share with the Tozer convertible preference shares at 135p. Kenning yesterday closed 3p higher at 218p. In the formal offer document published with the results, the board of Tozer accused the Kenning management of lacking both direction and logic. Tozer's chief executive, Mr Reg Heath, said: "The company is badly directed, has lost its way totally, and needs fresh management at the top."

Mr Brierley already owns 29.9 per cent of Kenning and if the offer were fully taken up his stake in Tozer would emerge at around 55 per cent.

Booming Burton 'fit for new bid'

By Cliff Feltham

Burton, the retailing group which includes the Debenhams stores, yesterday announced a 114 per cent increase in pretax profits to £74.3 million. And, with takeover activity again at boiling point, Burton appeared to indicate that it cannot be ruled out of the battle for Woolworth. Mr Mike Wood, the finance director, said: "It is a very interesting development, and we will be looking at the terms of the proposed arrangement."

A boardroom colleague confirmed that, "if the right opportunity occurs," Burton was in a position to make an acquisition. Burton's share price rose 8p to 354p, reflecting bid interest in the stores sector and satisfaction at the benefits flowing from Debenhams, into which Burton has injected nearly 100 speciality departments such as Top Shop, Principles and Dorothy Perkins. In the last six months group sales rose by 135 per cent to £620 million. Burton confirmed that Debenhams reached its profit forecast for last year of £60 million, made at the time of the takeover bid, while sales in the six months

rose by 11 per cent over the corresponding period. The chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern, said that parts of Debenhams were for sale. He hoped to raise about £10 million from the sale of its stake in an American property development and was also planning to dispose of a chain of 55 shoe shops. Other parts of the business were also under review, including the future of the Hamleys toy shop in the West End of London. Burton is paying an increased interim dividend of 1.6p a share, up from 1.25p.

Barclays hit by £22m Italian loss

From John Earle, Rome

Barclays Bank's Italian subsidiary has surprised the Milano financial world by reporting a 1985 loss of \$1,670 million lira (£22.2 million) after breaking even in 1984. An official said, however, that 44,500 million lira of these represented bad debts, for which British standards of accounting has been adopted, and that the effective operational loss was little more than 7,000 million lira, mainly due to reduced margins on the inter-bank market. Barclays admits that it has undergone "rapid and confused growth" during the 1980s, taking on too many small, low-quality customers. Signor Gian Marco Petrelli, the general manager who moved from Citibank in 1984, conducted a reappraisal of strategy and has decided to give priority to advisory and other services to larger customers.

Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 1st May, 1986 Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate will be decreased from 13.00% per annum to 12.00% per annum. Bank of Scotland, Head Office, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ.

BANK OF SCOTLAND A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Last post in Imps battle

By Allison Eadie

The final appeals to Imperial shareholders were mailed yesterday by rival bidders United Biscuits and Hanson Trust as well as by Imperial itself. UB and Imperial continued to stress the commercial logic of their agreed merger, which they said would produce 17 per cent more income than the Hanson bid, comparable capital value and would make 100 per cent common sense. Hanson Trust continued to stress that its best offer was worth more than UB's best offer. It also said it had an outstanding record of improving the performance of the companies it buys. UB's final closing date is April 11. At yesterday's prices its offer was worth 362p a share or £2.75 billion against Hanson offer of 380p a share or £2.88 billion. Imperial shares were unchanged at 356p.

MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, GOLD, CURRENCIES, and INTEREST RATES. Includes data for Dow Jones, Nikkei Dow, Hang Kong, etc.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

EVERY THURSDAY CHIEF EXECUTIVES ■ MANAGING DIRECTORS ■ DIRECTORS ■ SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVES ■ OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS ■ FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTANCY A wide range of management appointments appears every Thursday. THURSDAY MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY OF THE TIMES

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Imperial shareholders.

The Form.

FORM OF ACCEPTANCE, AUTHORITY AND ELECTION **UB**
United Biscuits (Holdings) plc Recommended Offer for
Imperial Group public limited company

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2.
 Acceptance of the Offer is on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Offer Document. The provisions of paragraph 8 of Appendix II to the Offer Document are incorporated in and form part of this Form of Acceptance.

TO ACCEPT THE OFFER

COMPLETE BOX 1 and COMPLETE BOXES 4 AND 5 BELOW

BOX 1
 NUMBER OF IMPERIAL ORDINARY SHARES
 500

Your signature could enable you to enjoy an income 17% greater than that from the highest Hanson offer.

We, the Imperial Board, urgently and unanimously recommend you to reject the unwelcome Hanson bid and accept the United Biscuits' offer without delay.

The UB Offer:

- Is fair and reasonable and represents an excellent deal for Imperial shareholders.
- Delivers a gross income of £24.41 for every 100 Imperial shares: 17% better than that from the Hanson alternative with the highest capital value.
- Gives you a valuable investment in a major fast-growing consumer business.

There will be no more offers – from either United Biscuits or Hanson Trust.

So please complete your white UB acceptance form immediately.

United Biscuits' forms must be received by 3:00 pm on Friday, 11th April 1986. This is the final closing date for the UB offer.

This is your last opportunity to help create a great new British consumer company – United Imperial – and benefit from its highly profitable future.



Share in 15th

TEMPUS

Reckitt puts faith in Magic Mushrooms

The Magic Mushroom, Reckitt & Colman's latest product, should end fears that the company is too staid for this era. However, shareholders might be relieved to know that it is not the 1960s hallucinatory substance but an air freshener for Americans.

Yesterday, the company announced increased profits of £123 million before tax for 1985, up from £106 million helped by a £17.8 million turnaround in North America.

A large part of the improvement on the other side of the Atlantic reflected the contribution of Airwick, acquired last year. This company made pre-interest profits of £11 million on sales of £162 million. The City was reassured, however, by talk of an improvement in margins, at least in Europe. In the coming year and news that the purchase price has been reduced by £50 million to £128 million. As a result Reckitt's shares jumped 43p yesterday to 879p.

There are still worries about some aspects of Reckitt's operations. The total spending on household products remains high, partly because of the launch of the Magic Mushroom. In theory, it should soon fall, at least as a proportion of sales.

Then there is the problem of the pharmaceutical division, where profits fell slightly last year to £24.1 million. The company says this is unlikely to grow substantially without an overseas acquisition.

With net borrowings of £41.2 million or 11 per cent of shareholders' funds at the year end, Reckitt has sufficient financial resources for an acquisition.

With its own shares trading on 16 times earnings, assuming profits of £139 million this year, it cannot afford to relax, however inventive the marketing team.

Abbey Life

With the benefit of hindsight, it is easy to say now that the stock market's euphoria over the flotation of Abbey Life, the unit-linked life company, last year was overdue.

Abbey shares leapt by more than 50p from the 180p offer

price as eager investors battled for a slice of the action. Only a few months later disappointing figures from Abbey sent the shares into a slump.

Yesterday's results - for the first full year since the flotation - did a little to help the situation, pushing the shares up 7p to 217p.

To an extent, the original euphoria was based on a misconception. At the time many investors believed that government plans to scrap the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme would lead to a pensions bonanza for life companies. But the Scheme plans have been radically watered down and perceptions of Abbey's prospects have suffered accordingly.

But a bigger factor in the market's caution towards Abbey is the company's own performance. The figures show that the company has achieved the £33 million profit forecast made at flotation time - it has turned in £34.6 million for 1985, up from £30 million the year before. A 6.9p dividend is being paid.

The result is solid but hardly compares with the sparkling growth achieved in the early 1980s and falls short of that now being achieved by many of Abbey's competitors.

Evidence that the company has lost the competitive edge it enjoyed a few years ago is visible in the sluggish growth of new initial commissions, up by less than £1 million from £45.5 million to £46.4 million.

Abbey suffered a slack six months for new business in the middle of 1985. The day was saved by a rush into pensions early in the year caused by pre-Budget panic and an improvement in new business at the end of the year.

Abbey is sounding more optimistic about new business next year but it will have to be nimble on its feet.

Ibstock Johnsen

Brick manufacturers have been riding the Hanson Trust/Loodoo Brick price wave for so long that this year may come as a rude shock. The outlook for further in-

creases is distinctly unexciting given the high level of industry stocks and new capacity.

Ibstock has always boasted one of the highest returns on British brick sales with trading margins of 30 per cent. Last year, despite price increases, this slipped to 26 per cent because of bad first-half weather and disruption from a heavy investment programme. Recovery from the severe winter was slower than expected and deliveries were below those of 1984 with a consequent £1 million drop in British building products trading profits to £1.4 million.

In the US, however, the return to profit finally happened and building products turnover moved ahead of Britain. After reduced first-half losses, the second half produced £1.4 million in pre-interest profits and a 4 per cent return on sales, which points to a sharp improvement this year.

A further £2.3 million of plant closure costs were charged below the line but the tidying up in the US is now complete and up to £4 million in trading profits should be possible this year. It will take a long time for margins to approach British levels, but the increasing popularity of brick in the US housing market gives sales scope.

Fibres - the oddball of the group - suffered from falling wood pulp prices exacerbated by the strong dollar. The contribution plummeted from £2.3 million to £867,000, wiping out much of the US improvement.

Capital investment, at £14.8 million, represents the peak of a three-year programme and the company admits to having been over-stretched. There was greater disruption than expected and some of the new equipment was delayed. The British management structure is now under review.

This year's first-half profits will be held back by the cold weather and the shares, up 3p at 188p, look to be up with events, assuming profits of £15 million for the full year and a prospective rating of 10.5.

Financier launches fourth bid for BHP

Melbourne (Reuter) - Mr Robert Holmes & Court yesterday launched a fourth takeover bid for Australia's largest company, only days after withdrawing his previous Aus\$3.5 billion (£1.75 billion) offer.

But the financier gave no details of his new bid when he lodged takeover documents with Australia's corporate authorities for registration.

The offer for BHP would contain terms, conditions and information designed to overcome objections raised in court action, Mr Holmes & Court's company said.

Mr Holmes & Court, who has been stalking BHP for nearly three years, dropped his third offer early last week after it had been stalled for almost six weeks by legal action.

His takeover vehicle, Bell Resources, which holds nearly 19 per cent of BHP shares, said in a stock exchange statement it had chosen to assume the validity of BHP's objections rather than contest them.

Market analysts expect Mr Holmes & Court to announce full details of his offer today or Monday.

His previous partial bid aimed for a minimum 20 per cent to a maximum 34 per cent of BHP's 1.25 billion issued shares on top of his current stake which would have given him effective control.

He had offered to pay Aus\$7.70 a share, well above yesterday's closing price of Aus\$6.36, a low level which has followed the oil price slump, analysts said.

BHP, which has annual sales of Aus\$8 billion, earns the bulk of its revenue from oil production.

Mr Holmes & Court's new bid would have the advantage of knowing much of BHP's defence strategy and is expected to be pitched at a lower share price, analysts said.

BHP, Australia's biggest oil and steel producer, spent tens of millions of dollars in a defence campaign which went to the courts, government and unions in an effort to stop Mr Holmes & Court, who responded to the bitter corporate struggle by bringing a personal promotion in trying to win the hearts and minds of BHP's 180,000 shareholders.

Booming stores lead index to another day of records

The stock market had another firm day yesterday, setting a record close on the FT-30 Index at 1,425.9, up 6.5 points on the day.

Shortly after the opening the index hit an all-time high of 1,432.2 points, gaining 12.8 points in the first hour. Although shares fell back from their best they improved again towards the close.

Double figure gains were prominent in the majority of sectors.

Stores led the way, with the Dixons offer for Woolworth exciting the speculative favourites, though the sector as a whole is already benefiting from the continuing consumer boom.

Gilt ended with gains to 1/2, behind the American bond market. Golds rose by a dollar or more.

Among leaders, Blue Circle, up 25p at 696p, leapt on news of the cement price rise.

Distillers added 23p to 693p on higher bid hopes. BP gained 7p to 563p as oils staged a good recovery on attempts to underpin the spot price. Thorn EM1 met profit-taking, however, which left

them 10p weaker at 514p. Vickers improved on compensation hopes, 15p to the good at 528.

Banks were one of the few weak sectors, falling on fears about oil related debts. National Westminster ended 30p down at 885p.

Insurances, however, benefited from comment on recent profits statements. Guardian Royal improved by 39p to 914p, and Sun Alliance strengthened 36p to 749p.

In stores, Woolworth jumped 257p to 890p, well above the offer terms from Dixons, which were rejected by Woolworth as derisory. Dixons surged 66p to 436p.

Speculation that Woolworth may make an attempt for Harris Queensway saw Harris add 22p to 296p.

Next gained 8p at 293p, ahead of the interim next Tuesday. W H Smith leapt 34p at 362p on speculative demand.

Elsewhere, Reckitt and Colman improved by 64p to 900p on profits up 16 per cent and reports of an analysts' meeting after the figures.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		SAC Int'l (100p)	
Abbott M V (180p)	230 +2	SPP (125p)	156
Ashley J (135p)	221	Templeton (215p)	228
BPP (160p)	185 +4	Sigmax (101p)	81
Brookmount (180p)	183 +1	Snowdon & B (97p)	119 +1
Chart FL (66p)	93	Spice (80p)	98
Chancery Sees (63p)	77	Tech Comp (130p)	202 -2
Corv 9% A 2000	£29 1/2	Underwoods (180p)	183
Cranwick M (95p)	105	Wellcome (120p)	226 -3
Dialene (128p)	185	W York Hosp (80p)	78
Ferguson J (10p)	31 1/2	Wicks (140p)	172 +2
Gold Mt Trof (165p)	188	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Granya Surface (56p)	89	Cullens F/P	70
Inoco (55p)	88	Greycoat N/P	50 +1 1/2
JS Pathology (160p)	280 +2	Hartwell N/P	104
Jarvis Porter (105p)	133	NHW Comp F/P	£350 +10
Klearfold (115p)	113 +3	Porter chad F/P	104
Lexaco (115p)	138 -2	Safeway UK	£48 1/2 -1 1/2
Macro 4 (105p)	145 +4	Wates F/P	155 -1
Mervale M (115p)	105	Westland F/P	83
Norank Sys (90p)	105		
Really Useful (330p)	333 -3		

£31m park plan for Sherwood

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Europe's biggest operator of holiday village parks, Sportshuis Centrum, is to develop a Sherwood Forest leisure area costing £31 million - and possibly a further five to six holiday villages elsewhere in England.

The Sherwood Forest development, due to open in July 1987, is expected to create 241 full-time jobs with working for another 400 during construction.

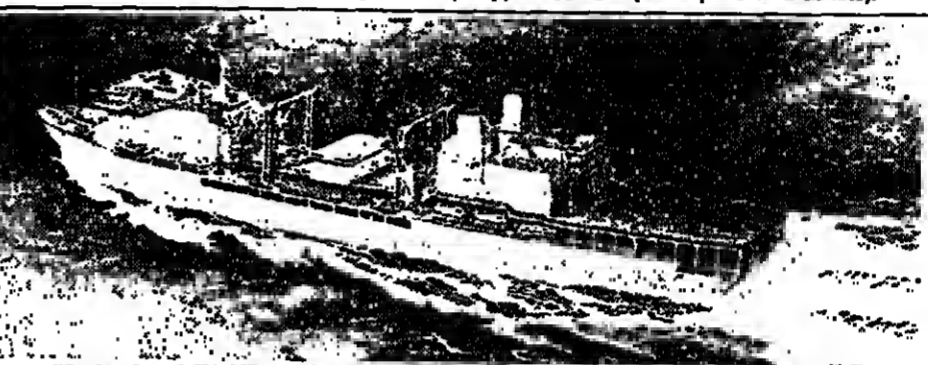
If the other leisure developments go ahead an additional 1,200 full-time jobs would be created.

Six hundred bungalows will be built in Sherwood Forest and it is hoped to attract continental holidaymakers as well as Britons.

The decision follows a five-year campaign led by the English Tourist Board to interest the Netherlands-based Sportshuis Centrum in moving to Britain. And for the development the tourist board put in its largest grant of £1.5 million.

Merger agreed

First Security Group has agreed conditionally to acquire for a maximum of £1.4 million the entire issued share capital of Fire Fighting Enterprises (UK) and its subsidiaries.



Harland and Wolff's design for a £120 million auxiliary oil replenishment ship.

Harland warns of job threat if Navy contract is lost

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Harland and Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipbuilder which is leading a consortium bidding for the controversial £240 million Royal Navy auxiliary warship contract, warned yesterday that the jobs of its 5,000 Northern Ireland workers could be in jeopardy if it loses the order.

The company is building only three ships, an order book of £160 million, and will run out of work early in 1988. The chairman, Mr John Parker, said that without substantial new orders, the future for the workforce and the yard looked bleak.

The company has also denied claims by the other bidder, newly-privatized Swan Hunter on the Tyne, that it is being supported by government subsidies and that its bid - the lower of the two - is unfair.

In an increasingly bitter battle of words, matched by apparent wrangling between the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade and Industry, Harland and Wolff has accused Swan Hunter of "many rash and erroneous statements" and of fearing genuine competition.

Mr Parker has been angered by Swan's suggestion that his is a subsidized public sector bid. No subsidies were available for building naval vessels, he said, and in any case the consortium led by Harland included the recently privatized Yarrow Shipbuilders, now owned by GEC, YARD, the Glasgow warship design consultants, and Rascal Marine.

Harland estimates Swan's order book at £400 million and Swan has been promised the £120 million contract to build a Type 23 frigate.

The issue is to be discussed by a Cabinet committee early next week and a decision taken. One possible compromise, of placing AOR orders with both yards, is being strongly resisted by the Ministry of Defence and the two bidders.

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China acts to beat cash deals

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

China is to abolish its foreign currency certificates in an attempt to stamp out black market currency deals.

The certificates, in use since 1979, are issued to foreigners in return for foreign currency and can be used in specified shops. They were designed to prevent unauthorized Chinese citizens from buying luxury or imported goods on sale to foreigners.

They have been traded on the black market at up to double their nominal value, but observers in Hong Kong say the black market will not be eliminated entirely.

China also plans to ban the use of Hong Kong dollars which now circulate freely in parts of southern China close to the British-ruled territory.

Ramada set to build six more UK hotels by 1990

By Our Industrial Editor

Ramada, the world's third largest hotel chain, is poised to open six more hotels in Britain by 1990 with a deal for a new hotel in a regional city expected to be announced within a week.

The company already has a hotel in Reading and its second British venture, the Ramada Renaissance at Brighton, is being built. It is due to open next spring.

These are Ramada's re-scheduled plans in the wake of the cancellation of its agreement with International Leisure Group, the tourism company headed by Mr Harry Goodman which includes Imasun.

Less than a year ago the companies announced a joint venture aimed at building a British hotel chain under the Ramada banner, with about £100 million likely to be

invested in eight to ten hotels over three or four years.

But because there have been no developments through the joint venture it has been terminated by mutual consent.

ILG still aims to build up its hotel interests. It had acquired the Barbican City hotel in London before the Ramada agreement was signed, and since the agreement it has taken on two other London properties, the Charing Cross Hotel and the Grosvenor near Victoria Station.

ILG investment in British hotels, including refurbishing, now exceeds £50 million. The company also has a joint venture with the Ladbrokes group for developing hotels and other holiday accommodation abroad.

London would operate under the Ramada banner but after evaluation that idea was abandoned. Another factor for ILG was that with the new purchases it was developing its own hotel management team, making it less reliant on Ramada for such expertise.

ILG now aims to add about six hotels in the London area to its British chain within the next three years. The joint scheme with Ramada had envisaged some regional hotels.

Both Ramada and ILG are now looking at existing properties and new building as ways to expand.

At Ramada, Mr Dan Moszczyz, senior vice president, said: "The UK remains a priority for the next phase of Ramada's growth and its expansion plans call for 1,000 additional rooms by 1990."

COMPANY NEWS

● PORTLAND HOLDINGS: Interim dividend, 2 cents (nil). Figures in Zim\$000. Pre-tax profit for six months to February 28, 2003 (£78). Earnings per share 4.9c (loss 0.2).

● EALING ELECTRO-OP-TICS: A dividend of 1.5p (nil) is payable for 1985, on May 27. With figures in £000, turnover totalled 7,471 (£5,362) and profit before tax 1,271 (£867). Earnings per share were 9.8p (not applicable). The figures have been prepared as if the present group structure has been in existence since January 1, 1984. The statutory figures reflect the actual group structure during the period, and are summarized as follows: turnover 6,793 (£5,000) profit before tax 892 (£339). Earnings per share were 7.5p (3.6p).

● MYSON GROUP: A final dividend of 1.375p, making 2.625p (1.25p) is payable for 1985. With figures in £000, turnover amounted to 58,683 (£5,291) and pre-tax profit 5,843 (£5,156). Earnings per share were 7.9p (6.7p). The poor markets for domestic heating products in the first three quarters of the year improved significantly in the last quarter and sales and profits were maintained at 1984 levels. The shares were 95, up 2.

● CLUFF OIL HOLDINGS: Figures in £000. Pre-tax loss for 1985, 8.987 (loss 635).

● GREENBANK GROUP: Final 1.5p making 2.4p (2.1p) for 1985. Figures in £000. Profit before tax 1,774 (£1,021). Profit 685 (£586). Earnings per ordinary share 4.32p (3.24).

● LONDON AND MAN-CHESTER: Final dividend 15.691 (14), making 23.811p (19.81). Figures in £000. Profit for 1985 after tax 6,721 (£5,050), other income 829 (£741). Profit attributable 6,591

(5,791). Earnings per share 28.74p (25.25p).

● ELYS (WIMBLEDON): Results for 52 weeks to February 2, 1985. Final dividend 8.5p (8), making 9.5p (9). Figures in £000. Pre-tax profit 500 (£473), tax 190 (£234). Earnings per share 25.8p (19.9).

● SILKOLINE LUBRI-CANTS: Final 3p, making 6p (9) for 1985. Figures in £000. Pre-tax profit 425 (£1,003), tax 172 (£368). Extraordinary debit 858 (£157 credit), making loss for year 605 (profit 792). Charge of £858,000 follows board's decision to rationalize refining and reprocessing. The year has had an encouraging start, and the company can expect to take increasing advantage of lower base oil prices.

● TSB GILT FUND: Dividend of 3p (gross) per share to be paid for the quarter to March 27.

● SUN ALLIANCE: Results for 1985. Final dividend 11.75p, making 17.5p (15.5). Figures in £millions. Premium income: general insurance 1,778.5 (1,606.7), long-term insurance 576.6 (505.1), general insurance underwriting loss 183.4 (198.7), long-term insurance profits 20.9 (18.4), investment and other income 200.2 (227.9). Profits before tax 37.7 (47.6), tax 2.8 (4.1). Earnings per share 14p (20.8).

● LYLE SHIPPING: Results for 1985. No ordinary, preferred or preference dividends (same). Figures in £000. Pre-tax profit 6,812 (loss 16,801). Profit attributable 6,912 (loss 16,831). Earnings per share

12.6p (loss 144.5p adjusted for rights issue).

● BSG International: Results for 1985. Dividend 0.715p (0.65), making 1.1p (1). Figures in £000. Profit before tax 6,517 (£4,025), tax 1,295 (£1,862). Earnings per share 3.70 (£2.10).

● WFP GROUP: Final 1.54p making 2.64p (2.4p) for 1985. With figures in £000. Turnover 3,961 (£3,422), pre-tax profits 412 (£111), tax 152 (£28), earnings per share weighted av 5.02p (5.02p). The results do not include any contribution from the company's new activities in the service sector. The board expects another successful year. Cash balances of more than £1.1 million at end-1985 have been supplemented by the recent share subscription of approximately £1.1 million by Sastchi, leaving WFP well positioned for further growth.

● WM COOK & SONS: The offer for the ordinary shares of Robert Hyde & Son has lapsed.

● STANLEY MILLER: Final 0.5p making 1p (nil) for 1985. With figures in £000. Turnover 26,316 (£18,599), operating profit 120 (loss 272), share of loss of associate company 126 (loss 177), loss before tax six (loss 449), tax 24 (nil), extraordinary item dnt 266 (nil), loss per share 0.30p (7.48p). The loss of 26,037 (£448,831) is after taking into account a loss of the company's one-time associate in Saudi Arabia and an extraordinary loss in writing off its investment in the company. This year has begun with success in winning contracts.

● SCOTTISH HERITABLE TRUST: Results for the year to December. Final dividend 1.6p (1.4p) making 3p (2.5p). With figures in £000. Turnover 32,969 (£24,322), operating profit 4,135 (£2,545), expenses 390 (£349), interest on borrowings 495 (£296), pre-tax profit 3,250

(1,900), tax 821 (£370), minority share of losses 20 (nil), extraordinary dnt 299 (nil), profit attributable 2,150 (£1,153), earnings per share 12.1p (10.6p), profit of 4,135 (£2,545), breakdown: engineering 728 (nil), property and inv 70 (622), incorporating 2019 (1,426), building and quarrying 389 (660), other activities loss 203 (163 loss), non-recurring building and quarrying 212 (nil).

● WILLIAM JACKS: Final 0.6p making 1.1p (1p) with figures in £000. Turnover 2,389 (£1,798), operating profit 589 (£415), interest 228 (£225), pre-tax profit 361 (£190), tax 45 (£48), earnings per share 2.9p (2.17p). Full accounts on which the auditors reported with a qualification, have been filed with the registrar of companies.

● GABICCE: Results for the half-year to December 19 (£000) interim dividend 1p (0.9p). Turnover 4,319 (£2,695), profit before tax 330 (£252), tax 129 (£111), earnings per share 3.4p (2.6p).

● HUTCHISON WHAM-POA: Final HK\$0.70 a making HK\$1.05 (0.84) net HK\$1.18 billion (1.02 billion). Net includes extraordinary profits of HK\$369 million (269 million).

● COATES ROTTERS: 1985 (comp adv) final 1.2p making 4.6p (same). With figs in £000, group turnover was 189,009 (£181,838), group profit before tax 11,524 (£12,324), UK tax 1,700 (£2,910), overseas tax 3,224 (£2,899), minorities 214 (£63), extraord dnt 126 (nil). In 1984, the year ended a significant number of subsidiaries were changed to December 31 and 14-month figures were included for those. The adj figures shown are the directors' estimates based on management accounts of these group results if no change had been made to the year ends of these subs.

Latest prices:

At last some help for the hard pressed Imperial shareholder. Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company. In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 5 pm.

HANSON BID WORTH:

380.3p

UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH:

362.5p

HANSON BID BETTER BY:

+ 17.8p

Figures based on the market prices at 5.30pm on Thursday.

HANSON TRUST

CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's and United Biscuits' offers depend on their respective share prices. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock and United Biscuits' Offer. The offer values take account of estimates by Moore Cowell Ltd of the values at the relevant ordinary share prices, of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson and the convertible preferred shares of United Biscuits.

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.47 to 1,798.73 shortly after opening yesterday. The transportation average rose 1.96 to 815.63 and the utilities average edged up 0.41 to 191.68. The 65 stocks average touched 708.96, up 1.48 on the overnight close. There were 756 issues ad-

Volume totalled 145,300,000 on Wednesday compared with 167,390,000 shares the previous day. The New York Stock Exchange composite index on Wednesday was up 0.22 to close at 136.08.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, Allied Signal, Alcoa) and their respective price changes. Includes sub-sections for 'CANADIAN PRICES' and 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %'.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table titled 'STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES' showing market rates for various currencies like N.York, London, Hong Kong, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %' for various banks and currencies, including Dollar, Swiss Franc, and others.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing various financial futures contracts such as 'Three Month Sterling', 'Three Month Eurodollar', and 'Three Month Japanese Yen'.

COMMODITIES

Table titled 'LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE' listing prices for various commodities like sugar, coffee, and cocoa.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing 'DOLLAR SPOT RATES' for various international currencies like the Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, and others.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts and their performance metrics, including 'Investment Trusts' and 'Financial Trusts'.

COMMODITIES

Table titled 'LONDON MEAT FUTURES EXCHANGE' showing prices for various types of meat.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES EXCHANGE

Table showing 'LONDON MEAT FUTURES EXCHANGE' prices for different grades of meat.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing various financial trusts and their performance metrics, including 'Investment Trusts' and 'Financial Trusts'.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table providing detailed information for various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance data.

Handwritten note: 'Do not write' with a large arrow pointing to the right.

As promised, they have delivered a handsome profit.



Clearly, the investment that we have made in Debenhams is paying off.

But then we always knew Debenhams fortunes would follow in the footsteps of the Burton Group as a whole. As a group we have recorded sales of £620.5m. (Up 135% on last year.)

Our pre-tax profits are up by 114% to £74.3m. And our interim dividend has jumped from 1.25p to 1.6p.

At £53.4m, our half year capital expenditure has never been higher.

And whilst the number of jobs has increased by over 2,000, the number of new trading outlets opened stands at 64.

Our commitment to British-made goods has never

been stronger either. Currently up another £62m, we fully intend the figure to grow and grow.

The investment in our community employment initiative (one of the largest in the private sector) is also considerable.

We're helping 150 new business ventures get off the ground.

Certainly, we can't be accused of not trying out some new ideas.

Which is why we believe we will remain an exciting company to work for. To buy from. And to invest in.

The Burton Group plc.
Creating a wider choice.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have not overpaid or a share of the total daily price money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-D, FOODS, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, DRAPERY AND STORES, BRITISH FUNDS, SHORTS (Under Five Years), FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, UNDATED, INDEX LINKED, BANKS DISCOUNT HP, and ELECTRICALS.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Includes a note: 'Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.'

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDEX LINKED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Double-figure gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 1. Dealings end April 11. Settlement day April 14. Settlement day, April 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

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INDUSTRIALS E-K table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS L-R table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS S-Z table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS OIL table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

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INDUSTRIALS OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS PROPERTY table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS SHIPPING table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS TEXTILES table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS TOBACCOS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

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INDUSTRIALS INSURANCE table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS LEISURE table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS MINING table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

INDUSTRIALS OIL table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield, % Yield.

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THE TIMES Portfolio Daily Dividend £2,000 Claims required for +63 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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Handwritten note: 'Daily is 1/20'

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THE QUESTOR COLUMN

Biscuits over a barrel

CITY opinion is gradually turning against United Biscuits in its triangular battle for control of Imperial Group.

The 12p jump in United's share price yesterday to 258p said as much. This latest increase has taken the value of the United offer much closer to the level of the Hanson Trust bid, but there is enormous doubt about whether United's present share price would be sustainable if its bid was successful.

United's offer is currently worth 360p per Imperial share while Hanson's is just ahead of that at 369p. But, while Hanson is clearly seeking to buy earnings per share with the purchase of Imperial, United would if successful suffer at least 10 p.c. earnings dilution in its first year. That would surely outweigh any integration benefits that could be gained in the short term by a United Imperial Group.

Crunch day for United is April 11, the final closing day for its offer unless it becomes unconditional. Hanson, on the other hand, can extend its bid to April 29 and it is already claiming around 30 p.c. of Imperial's shares, including purchases and acceptances, compared with the 22 p.c. which United claims.

The Problem for Sir Hector Laing and his team at United is that they have sold the idea of a combined United Imperial so hard that the market can now spot United's own vulnerability to a takeover if its bid fails.

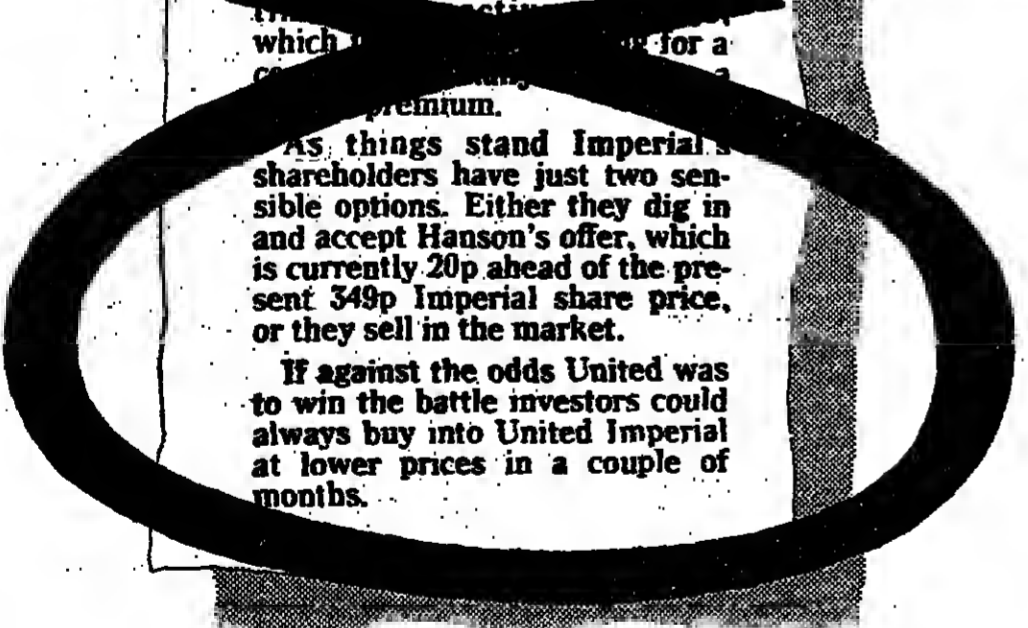
The speculation generated by that is certainly included in the present share price which commands a prospective earnings Multiple of 12.3 times. Without Imperial that rating has perhaps a full point of downside if United's own takeover attractions are being overplayed. With Imperial the short-term downside is even greater.

On a six months view Hanson's shares are more attractive with Imperial than without it, and fully diluted the enlarged group at 180p share is selling at 13.6

which is a premium.

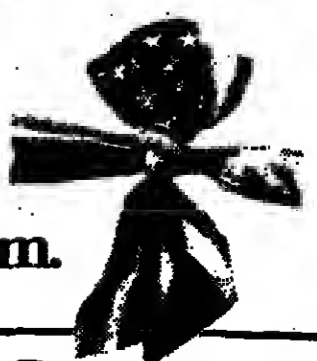
As things stand Imperial's shareholders have just two sensible options. Either they dig in and accept Hanson's offer, which is currently 20p ahead of the present 349p Imperial share price, or they sell in the market.

If against the odds United was to win the battle investors could always buy into United Imperial at lower prices in a couple of months.



That's the way the cookie crumbles.

Accept the Hanson offer now. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 3pm.



H A N S O N T R U S T

Vertical text on the left margin including 'Portfolios' and other financial-related terms.

Vertical text on the right margin, likely a list of names or a sidebar.

PERSONAL

A time for flowers. Interflora More than words can say

All classified advertisements can be accepted by telephoning (except Announcements). The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

COASTGUARDS on flights: note to Enroute. USA & most distant. Book. 2300. ABTA LATA ATOL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEVANT, Shirley, Stuart and Doreen wish to thank all their friends and relatives for their sympathy, floral tributes and charitable donations following the sad loss of Derek.

BIRTHDAYS

F.J. Henry Birthday in your 70th year. FRIENDS please note that I have moved to 100, 21st Berkeley Road, Saratoga.

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NEW GARDENS. Clear take and show. Spacious, 900 sq ft. 2 bed flat. Pkg £150 per month.

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RACING: DAWN RUN AND O'NEILL UNSCATHED AFTER DRAMATIC FIRST FENCE FALL AT AINTREE

Beau Ranger's shock win augurs well for West Tip

By Michael Seely

A dramatic first fence fall by Dawn Run and an inspired tactical riding performance by Hywel Davies resulted in a 40-1 shock win for Beau Ranger in the Whitbread Gold Label Cup on good going at Aintree yesterday. Wayward Lad finished strongly to be beaten only a length and a half with very promising a remote third.

The departure of the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner from the scene was as sudden as it was surprising. "She put in too quick a stride and broke in the groundrail," John O'Neill said. The hero of Cheltenham was passed fit to ride Emu Forever in the next race.

Beau Ranger, winner of the Kenwood Construction Gold Cup at Cheltenham and also of the Chesters Handicap on this track last season, had finished runner-up to West Tip in the Grand National on soft ground last time out. But here, bowling along on his favourite surface, John Thorne's eight-year-old was soon setting his rivals a blistering gallop.

The moment of truth came at the third fence from home. Beau Ranger hit the jump but lost no momentum as Davies set sail for home. Graham Bradley drove Wayward Lad for all he was worth but the Gold Cup runner-up's stamina came into play too late to gain the day.



Beau Ranger clears the last on his way to a surprise success in the Whitbread Gold Label Chase (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

oow be retired for the season but Dawn Run will be seen in action at Gowran Park in May.

Not only did supporters of West Tip for the National receive encouragement from Beau Ranger's victory, they also had the satisfaction of watching the favourite's jockey, Richard Dunwoody, gain his first victory over the National fences on Glanrue in the Whitbread Trophy Chase.

After making every yard of the running, the 22-year-old Ulsterman first fought off the challenge of Phil Tuck on Prehen Fur and then resisted the dramatic late attacks of

Tim Thomson Jones on Bright Oasis to win by a neck. Fifteen of the 22 starters completed the course. "The ground is perfect," Dunwoody said. "It may be a bit on the soft side of good, but it will be just right for West Tip. You've got to be encouraged after Beau Ranger, but maybe he was a bit flattered."

This was an all-Irish victory as Glanrue's win was the first training success in this country for Terry Casey. "I moved to Adstone near Towcester last November. Before that I was head lad to Paddy Mullins and then I trained on the Curragh for four seasons. I

Slick City Boy to give encore in Foxhunters

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With 20 hopes standing their ground overnight, the R.E.A. Foxhunters Chase ran over a full circuit of the Grand National course, looks like being an exciting affair at Aintree today before the banquet proper tomorrow.

Twelve months ago this coveted prize was won by an experienced amateur, Tim Thomson Jones, riding CITY BOY. Now I nap the same partnership to emulate Spartan Missile (John Thorne) and Credit Call (Joey Newton) and best of all the third consecutive win to the race twice since the war.

City Boy warmed up for the task in the best possible way 13 days ago when he won the open race the Fitzwilliam Handicap to point-by-point by four lengths in the fastest time of the day. So he will not fall for want of fitness. Earlier in the year, before the freeze, he had shown his class as good as ever by winning a hunter chase at Ludlow. On that occasion he had Rambling Back nearly nine lengths back in third.

When he was successful 12 months ago, City Boy also beat Peace Clash who was subsequently disqualified and looked the hard core of the opposition comprises Eborpary, who ran well against Border Burg at Ludlow recently, and Venture To Cognac, who disappointed in the Foxhunters at Cheltenham where he started a hot favourite.

Thomson Jones also has a chance of winning the BBC Radio Merseyside Novices' Hurdle on the recent Nottingham winner, Dryden, but I just prefer Peter Scudamore's mount, KITTO, who ran well in the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham. Before that he had won over a distance only slightly shorter than that of today's race at Huntingdon. Scudamore will also be hoping

to win the valuable Glenlivet Hurdle on Solar Cloud and have his first taste of success at the Cheltenham Festival recently when he won the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle from the last-finishing Brunica.

On 4th better terms, the latter has a greater chance of getting his revenge. However, I do not think he will jump well yet to win a race of this nature. His fallibility over hurdles was the reason he got so far behind, not only at Cheltenham but at Sandown, where that, and now he has no final bid to help him.

So I am looking to the Irish challenger, DARK RAVEN, to extend his unbeaten record. A close companion of Hunt Or Ivor, who was beaten only three-quarters of a length and a short head by Solar Cloud and runner-up at Cheltenham, Dark Raven may strip tracks as those who were involved in that hard struggle at Cheltenham. From Lambourn, I can pass on encouragement for both Baby Sign and Sierra from the stables of Nicky Henderson and Stan Mealey. They too are fit and fresh and highly-raced.

LIVERPOOL

Televised: BBC1: 2.35, 3.10. BBC2: 3.45, 4.20. Going: good to soft (National course); good (hard, Mildmay)

2.0 WOODLAND STUD NOVICE CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10 runners)
1.00 F1141 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.01 F1142 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.02 F1143 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.03 F1144 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.04 F1145 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.05 F1146 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.06 F1147 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.07 F1148 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.08 F1149 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.09 F1150 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85

2.35 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)

2.00 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.00 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.01 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.02 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.03 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.04 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.05 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.06 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.07 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.08 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)
1.09 TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE HANDICAP (Mares; £5,000; 2m) (17)

3.10 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)

3.00 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
1.00 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
1.01 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
1.02 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
1.03 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
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1.08 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)
1.09 GLENVIEW HURDLE (4-Y-O; £19,275; 2m) (18)

Low in form with double

John Lowe maintained his good start to the season with a double at Hamilton Park yesterday. The winner runs in the Maiden Stakes, making all the running to beat Bantel Busby by 10 lengths. The winner runs in the colours of the British Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Ltd.

Taunton results

2.15 (m 30) 1. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.16 (m 30) 2. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.17 (m 30) 3. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.18 (m 30) 4. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.19 (m 30) 5. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.20 (m 30) 6. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.21 (m 30) 7. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.22 (m 30) 8. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.23 (m 30) 9. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85
2.24 (m 30) 10. CLARA'S LAD (M) W. Jones 7-11-85

Hamilton Park

2.15 (m 30) 1. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.16 (m 30) 2. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.17 (m 30) 3. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.18 (m 30) 4. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.19 (m 30) 5. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.20 (m 30) 6. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.21 (m 30) 7. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.22 (m 30) 8. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.23 (m 30) 9. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.24 (m 30) 10. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85

3.45 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)

3.00 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.00 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.01 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.02 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.03 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.04 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.05 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.06 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.07 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.08 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)
1.09 R E A BOTT FOX HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs; £5,721; 2m 8f) (20)

Liverpool selections

2.0 The Apprentice, 2.35 Maruzzo, 3.10 Dark Raven, 3.45 CITY BOY (mp), 4.20 Brunton Park, 4.50 City Boy.
By Michael Seely
2.0 Pearyman, 3.10 Bruno, 3.45 VENTURE TO COGNAC (mp).
Brian Beek's selection: 3.45 City Boy.

4.20 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)

4.00 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.00 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.01 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.02 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.03 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.04 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.05 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.06 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.07 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.08 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)
1.09 SPORTING LIFE WEEKENDER HANDICAP CHASE (25,180; 3m) (20)

4.50 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)

4.00 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.00 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.01 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.02 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.03 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.04 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.05 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.06 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.07 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.08 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)
1.09 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (25,200; 2m 4f) (10) (20)

Hamilton Park

2.15 (m 30) 1. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.16 (m 30) 2. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.17 (m 30) 3. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.18 (m 30) 4. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.19 (m 30) 5. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.20 (m 30) 6. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.21 (m 30) 7. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.22 (m 30) 8. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.23 (m 30) 9. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.24 (m 30) 10. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85

Ayr acceptors

2.15 (m 30) 1. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.16 (m 30) 2. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.17 (m 30) 3. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.18 (m 30) 4. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.19 (m 30) 5. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.20 (m 30) 6. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.21 (m 30) 7. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.22 (m 30) 8. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.23 (m 30) 9. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85
2.24 (m 30) 10. CHRISTMAS HOLLY (M) G. Jones 7-11-85

Results from Liverpool

Going: good, Military, hurdle course; good to soft, National
2.0 WOODLAND STUD NOVICE CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10 runners)
1.00 F1141 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.01 F1142 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.02 F1143 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.03 F1144 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.04 F1145 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.05 F1146 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.06 F1147 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.07 F1148 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.08 F1149 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85
1.09 F1150 BEAURANGER (M) P. Shaw J.A. O'Neill 7-11-85

2.15 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)

2.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.01 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.02 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.03 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.04 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.05 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.06 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.07 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.08 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.09 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)

2.45 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.01 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.02 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.03 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
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1.05 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.06 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.07 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.08 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.09 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.55 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.02 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.03 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.07 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.08 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.09 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.55 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.02 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.06 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.09 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.55 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.02 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.04 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.07 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.08 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.09 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

DEVON & EXETER

Going: good to soft

2.15 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.01 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.02 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.03 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.04 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.05 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.06 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.07 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.08 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)
1.09 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2744; 2m) (18)

2.15 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.01 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.02 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
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1.08 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.09 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.45 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.00 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.01 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.02 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
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1.08 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)
1.09 HALDON MOOR NOVICE HURDLE (2765; 2m) (18)

2.55 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.02 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.08 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.09 WITBREAD GOLD LABEL CHASE (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.55 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
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1.08 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.09 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.55 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

2.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.00 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.01 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.02 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.03 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.04 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.05 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.06 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.07 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.08 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)
1.09 WITBREAD TROPHY HANDICAP (25,200; 2m) (10)

3.50 HAWKINS NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (4-y-o; £461; 2m) (14)

3.00 HAWKINS NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (4-y-o; £461; 2m) (14)
1.00 HAWKINS NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (4-y-o; £461; 2m) (14)
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Bargain might benefit Sofia

Sofia In the space of a few days the Bulgarian climate has jumped from winter into summer...

Sofia, like Birmingham, has something invaluable to offer the Olympic Games...

We're newcomers in this campaign and already it has become a kind of burden...

Already some 30 IOC members have visited Sofia, with another 20 expected...

The General competed in the 1924 Olympics in Paris and it is amusingly alleged that whenever an IOC colleague arrives here he is greeted by the General...

The emotional mood of Sarajevo in 1984 was memorable for the friendly informality of the Yugoslavs...

While David Eddy, one of the selectors, has said Dew's explanation was accepted, Downey, who has suffered so much apparently for so little...

Dew's value to the team was emphasized by his and Dipak Tailor's fine performance in losing narrowly 15-9, 12-15, 15-11 to the former world champion...

Nigel Tier and Gillian Gowen's favourites to win the individual mixed doubles title, were given a tough match by Chris Rees and Lesley Roberts...

Some \$300 million (about £200m) is to be spent on winter sports facilities within four years if the Bulgarians are appointed hosts...

To keep the Olympics alive, the IOC has to look at smaller countries, to get away from the battle of strategic political balance...

David Miller

Aintree greets its first winner



I Bin Zaidoon (right) jumps the last hurdle upsides River Ceiriog, the runner-up, before going on to win at Liverpool for his trainer, Mrs Jenny Pitman, and jockey, Graham McCourt, yesterday (photograph: Ian Stewart). Report, page 29.

More misery in a savage winter's tale

Put into bat on a pitch that was coarse and green, England were soon in trouble again when the fourth Test match, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, began here yesterday.

It was a wretched pitch for England to be trapped on, prepared unashamedly, or so it seemed, for the benefit of the home attack.

Manager jumps to Botham's defence

Ian Botham yesterday denied that he and his manager, Tim Hudson, are at odds, after new drug-taking allegations against the England player.

length. To help him face the fire at No.4, Smith had only three innings behind him in the last month and a top score for the tour of 43.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes names like G A Gooch, R T Robinson, D W Smith, etc.

was taken low down at first slip by Richards, giving Garner figures of three for 17 in seven overs.

Despite his lack of batting and shortage of runs, Smith went off at lunch having played better than anyone.

Cricket tour

David Bairstow will lead a party of 14 Yorkshire county cricketers, including Geoffrey Boycott, on a tour of Jersey and Guernsey from April 11 to 18.

GOLF

Oosterhuis loses grip

Andy Bean compiled a 68 to take the early lead in the first round of the Greater Greensboro Open on the Forest Oaks course here yesterday.

Bean, who won the title in 1984, was later joined in the lead by Jim Simons. He had four birdies in his 68, which included a 45-foot putt at the

which can ruin a whole round. However, I might come over for the PGA Championship.

Even so, he started well - holing from six feet for a birdie at the 1st. And although he drove into the water at the third, Oosterhuis showed an excellent form by hitting an excellent four iron on to the green, so dropping only one shot in the process.

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ATHLETICS

Ovett on right road to 5,000 metres

Twelve years after his first gold medal, in the European junior 800 metres, Steve Ovett is preparing for a move up to 5,000 metres for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and the European championships in Stuttgart.

Ovett said yesterday: "I honestly haven't made up my mind about the championships yet, but I will be running in more 5,000 metres races this summer. I had a long break after my road races in America in mid-October, and I was supposed to be running in Norway a few days ago, but the arrangements fell through."

BADMINTON

Dew drops out of England squad

England's 3-2 defeat against Denmark in the final of the European championships here on Wednesday night was followed by another damaging development in the Martin Dew saga.

Now, having won his battle to be included in the squad and to travel late, Dew has announced he cannot go after all. The reason, he claims, is that his employers in Denmark say that notice is too short to give him three weeks away from his job as an engineer with a high-speed communications network.

RUGBY UNION

S African tour likely

Wellington (UPI) - A full New Zealand team is expected to tour South Africa next month, but without Government sanction, the New Zealand Times reported yesterday.

The proposed 1985 tour was called off after a New Zealand high court ruled that it would be against the principles of the country's rugby union.

More rugby, page 30

SWIMMING

England pre-select

England have pre-selected four of their leading swimmers for the Commonwealth Games. The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) announced yesterday that Adrian Moorhouse (breaststroke), Sarah Hardcastle (freestyle), and Andrew Jameson and Caroline Cooper, both (butterfly), will not be required to compete in next month's trials at Coventry.

Moorhouse has been selected for the 100 and 200 metres breaststroke, Miss Hardcastle for the 400 and 800 metres freestyle. Miss Hardcastle is also Britain's leading 400 metres medley competitor but the selectors have decided that she must compete in the trials of that event in order to secure a place.

Beckenham faulted

London (AP) - The ruling body of British tennis has told the organizers of the Beckenham tournament to reconsider inviting Jimmy Connors to play there while he is serving a 10-week suspension.

It is our view that we should support the spirit of the disciplinary action," Peacock said. "Under International Tennis Federation rules, we certainly could not offer financial support or sanction an event which allowed a player under suspension to take part."

Salute Cannons. Cannons, the London squash racket club, are the new American Cup Premier League champions after winning 4-1 at Edgbaston Priory in their last

Royal flavour

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips have entered the Winton Castle horse trials in County Durham from April 12 to 13.

Tough baptism. Gary Donovan and Ian Rosser, both aged 17, can expect a difficult time when they make their senior British swimming debuts in the International, sponsored by Sun Life, against the Soviet Union and Holland at Coventry on April 12 and 13.

Pals' act. The South African, Peter Francisco, overpowered the veteran, Fred Davis, in the Embassy world professional snooker championship's qualifying tournament at Preston yesterday and will now meet his best friend, Neal Foulds.

SPORT IN BRIEF

match of the season. They pipped Ardleigh Hall after the Essex side could only beat Manchester Northern 3-2.

Blake move. Roy Blake, assistant coach to Sharp Manchester United, the Carlsberg National Basketball League champion, was appointed yesterday coach to HomeSpire Bolton, the struggling first division side.

Conners in the cold. Connors is in the cold for the Beckenham tournament.

Ladies first

Maria Navratilova and Chris Evert, the defending champion, head the women's line-up for the French Open tennis championships from May 29 to June 6. Mrs Lloyd beat Miss Navratilova in the final last year to secure the title for a record sixth time.

They are automatically selected for Edinburgh, assuming they do not suffer any serious injury or illness before then. England are following the lead of Scotland, who pre-selected eight of their squad last year.

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